Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-90-029 *12 February 1990*

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UN Security Council Discusses Hermann Incident

FL1002005090 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2110 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Report by Rossana Fuentes-Berain]

[Text] United Nations, 9 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The United States and Cuba held an energetic discussion at the UN Security Council today on the 30 January U.S. attack on a ship manned by a Cuban crew.

Cuban Ambassador Ricardo Alarcon characterized the incident as an act of piracy. The attack was carried out by a U.S. Coast Guard vessel in the Caribbean on the ship Hermann, which was flying a Panamanian flag and had a Cuban crew. Is it an extenuating circumstance that the pirates of today carry out their cowardly task shielding themselves with a battleship?

U.S. Representative Alexander Watson reiterated that the intention was to conduct a routine inspection to determine the nature of the ship's cargo, which had a profile matching drug-smuggling ships. He asserted that in line with international maritime law, the U.S. Coast Guard requested and got permission from the Panamanian to board the vessel. The ship was flying a Panamanian flag. In addition, he said these types of inspections are allowed by the UN agreement on the fight against illegal drug trafficking (1988), which was ratified by the United States, Panama, and Cuba.

Alarcon recalled that the agreement is not yet in force, and questioned the argument that the criminal operation could be perpetrated just because legitimate or illegitimate authorities of two states agreed with each other. The Cuban representative explained how his government proposed that the Mexican authorities inspect the ship to prevent the attack since the incident took place in Mexican territorial waters. Alarcon said Mexico, as usual, showed responsibility and a true sense of international cooperation deserving of gratitude. Nevertheless, he added, the Americans refused to accept our proposal. This, he continued, made it clear that the U.S. action had nothing to do with the prevention of drug trafficking, but were exclusively aimed at attempting to impose, with insolence and provocation, an illegal assumption: that they are the masters of the high seas.

The U.S. representative dismissed as irrelevant the Cuban argument involving Mexico with the incident. Watson asserted that the ship was in international waters and not in Mexican waters, saying that the Cubans had no right to make alternate proposals to what Panama, the country flag the ship was flying, had already accepted. Watson also said it is false that the Cuban Government extended an invitation to conduct a joint inspection with Mexican authorities. He added that the Mexican Government, which could have extended such an invitation, did not.

A representative of the Mexican mission to the United Nations noted that Cuba had asked the Mexican authorities to inspect the vessel but said it had not asked to invite the parties involved.

Alarcon explained that the United States had been told that Mexico would conduct the inspection and that Washington was told that, if they were interested, to join in the inspection that showed that the ship had nothing to do with drug trafficking. I do not understand why they did not want to participate, said the Cuban ambassador.

Watson declined his right to rebut and said the UN Security Council had already invested too much time discussing a subject that in no way threatens international peace and safety.

The Security Council session was adjourned without the presentation of any resolution. Consequently, the 15 permanent representatives did not vote.

More on Alarcon's Statements

PA1002155990 Havana International Service in Spanish 0007 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Cuba has noted at the UN Security Council that our country will never grant the United States the right to practice piracy and that Cubans will not be intimidated by imperialist arrogance. Ricardo Alarcon, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, reiterated the above principle during a brief meeting held by the UN Security Council to analyze the recent aggression by a U.S. Coast Guard ship against the Hermann merchant vessel, run by a Cuban company.

The UN Security Council just listened to the Cuban and U.S. viewpoints on the incident, as no draft resolution was introduced—something observers attributed to U.S. pressure. In his speech, the Cuban ambassador denounced the United States, saying that since taking over Panama, the United States is deploying its war fleet all over the Caribbean, is threatening the sovereignty of the countries in the region, and is seeking to exert authority over an area that does not belong to it and over which it has no jurisdiction.

With their courage, steadfastness, and will to resist, the Hermman crew members defeated U.S. provocation and thus defended the principles of international law, Alarcon said, stressing: We must now determine if the UN Security Council will be equally able to defend those principles.

Cuba

Justice Official Comments on Political Prisoners

FL0902193290 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2143 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Report by Jose Buendia]

[Text] Havana, 7 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Carlos Amat, Cuban vice minister of justice, has told NOTIMEX that there are approximately 100 prisoners of conscience left in Cuban jails following a prison cleanup. According to Amat, more than 1,000 political prisoners have been released in the last five years as a result of a policy to liberalize criminal sanctions and in response to requests from governments, international organizations, and the church.

However, Amat stressed: The same treatment cannot be guaranteed in the future because the situation is becoming difficult. Regarding the handling of prisoners and other persons charged with ideological wavering, Amat said: We could choose to enforce the law harshly. He added: The Cuban Government has been more flexible in its treatment of prisoners of conscience when a climate of detente has existed and the revolution has not been threatened. This was the case in 1988 when a UN commission visited Cuban jails and in recent years when political prisoners were released.

Alluding to the recent friction between the United States and Cuba, as well as the American intention to again present a report on Cuba before the UN Human Rights Commission, Amat noted categorically: If we return to the hot war, we will go back to being tough and execute them. He also stated: The Cuban Government is consistent when the system is not threatened by external forces (the United States), but we are not going to tolerate fifth columns that try to undermine the revolution.

The human rights observers mission stated in its report of September 1988 that about 340 prisoners had been released in recent years; of the 485 that had been recorded, about 145 people were still in prison at the time the mission traveled to Cuba. Cuba was satisfied with the commission's report at the annual meeting of the UN organization held in March 1989. However, one year later, the United States is pressuring the UN authorities to again discuss the Cuban case even though it has not been included on the meeting's agenda.

The Cuban vice minister of justice agreed that because of Bush's policy of aggression toward Cuba in 1989, around the middle of last year, flexibility in the treatment of political prisoners decreased in comparison with previous years. In August 1989, in accordance with Article 115 of the Penal Code, three of the most well-known human rights activists in Cuba were imprisoned for the crime of spreading false news. The new code, in effect since 1987, made the punishments and sentences more flexible for most crimes, including those that could fall under the category of crimes against state security. However, the new code did not abolish the death penalty.

Those arrested for spreading false news were sentenced as follows: Elizardo Sanchez, president of the Cuban Human Rights and National Reconciliation Commission, to two years in prison; Hubert Jerez, secretary of the Marti Human Rights Committee, to one year in prison; and Ivan Abi Covas, of the unregistered Party for Human Rights, to one year in prison.

The commission will be meeting at its headquarters in Geneva during the next five weeks. Greater pressure from the United States to again discuss the Cuban case is expected, since already during the first week of meetings, there have been charges presented by the Austrian delegation regarding alleged torture in Cuban prisons. The vice minister of justice said it is believed that the United States' attempts will not succeed because it has suffered a moral and international loss of credibility as a result of the Panama invasion.

Commentary on U.S. Intent at Drug Summit

PA1102180890 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Feb 90

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] Since everything seems to be ready in Cartagena, Colombia for the presidents who will participate in the drug summit, we must keep in mind a number of factors—among these, the excessive U.S. desire to play a dominant role in the summit stands out. In this regard, some analysts believe that because he is afraid of being viewed as inferior to the president who held office in the 1980's, George Bush has chosen militarization as the government strategy and Latin America as the stage on which to carry out great feats as part of that strategy. As a result, we have seen the barbarous decision to invade Panama and the efforts to turn the battle against drug trafficking into a war with troop deployments and aircraft carriers. However, it is a war that is being waged far from U.S. borders, while a blind eye is being turned to the drug consumers inside the United States.

In the past decade, Ronald Reagan described the Soviet Union as the evil empire, but President Bush and the U.S. press have transferred that concept to Panama, the drug cartels in Colombia, and, by extension, to the countries that grow the much criticized coca plant.

Even though it wants to be viewed as champion of the drug war, the United States has provided insignificant aid to Colombia in that country's real struggle against drug trafficking. It can be seen that $65 million does not even compensate Colombia for losses in its balance of payments because of the suspension of the international coffee agreement. Bolivian officials have also complained because Washington's plans do not in any way involve the replacement of coca cultivation with other equally profitable crops.

Apart from these financial aspects, if the invasion of Panama brought President Bush the domestic popularity he desired, it also made him intensely unpopular in Latin America. Under these circumstances, the plans to extend military actions against drugs failed when Colombia refused to agree to have its airspace and seas controlled by U.S. planes and naval vessels, with the aircraft carrier Kennedy as flagship. We must also mention the angry reaction of Peruvian President Alan Garcia, who said he would attend the Cartagena summit only after the U.S. President stated he would withdraw U.S. troops from Panamanian territory.

Even so, three fundamental things will dominate the Cartagena summit: 1) Peru's, Ecuador's, and Colombia's refusal to accept U.S. unilateral military actions, even if they are intended to fight illegal drugs; 2) joint measures should be used not only to halt the production of cocaine, but also to stop drug consumption; and 3) emphasis must be made on the fact that the Bush administration must take concrete action against drug consumers in the United States.

A Latin American commentator recently said that the arrest of Washington Mayor Marion Barry was a showy gesture that punished a black leader; it was simply symbolic because it did not affect the millionaire white drug lords who live off the drug business.

Education Delegates Denounce U.S. Actions

FL0902222290 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2051 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] The anti-Cuban project the U.S. Government is sponsoring has been condemned by foreign delegates in a statement read during today's session of Pedagogy 90. The document also denounces the Panama invasion, the attempt of a naval blockade against Colombia, the campaign that has victimized Nicaragua, and the attack on the merchant ship Hermann.

Latin American delegates to Pedagogy 90 assert in the text that Cuba has followed Jose Marti's advice: Doing is the best way of saying. This is made evident by all that the revolution has accomplished in education. Cuban achievements in education confirmed by the visitors to numerous Havana Province schools encourage and inspire Latin American countries, said the document released at the congress.

French Intellectuals Criticize TV Marti

FL1002032590 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] A group of French personalities published a document in Paris today entitled "Do Not Touch Cuba," which condemns the U.S. project to beam subversive television images against our country. The signatories noted that the George Bush administration is attempting to destabilize Cuba with an unprecedented action that offends the island's independence and sovereingty.

The attorneys, professors, journalists, artists, and religious people who signed the text also said Washington's plan violates the International Communications Convention, the UN treaty on cosmic space, and the UNESCO declaration on mass information media. The document produced by the outstanding French personalities recalls that the anti-Cuban television project has been criticized by Latin American governments and various associations and organizations.

Finally, the signatories asked the Paris and UN authorities to demand that the United States immediately stop such aggression.

Risquet Attends Presentation of Tomas Borge Book

FL0902165290 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1521 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] In presenting his book of testimony, "Patient Impatience [La Paciente Impaciencia]," winner of the Casa de las Americas prize in 1989, Commander Tomas Borge said that current circumstances represent the greatest challenge man has experienced on earth. He stated that no one denies the need for revolutionary transformations, but it is something else again to say that the collapse of the Berlin Wall is the end of history and that socialism no longer exists.

In presenting his book, "Patient Impatience," Tomas Borge stated that Grand Panjandrums are ignorant of the alphabet of the laws of historical development, and he criticized those who have abandoned the principles that made it possible to bring about a more just world.

Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo, as well as Commander of the Revolution Guillermo Garcia and Manuel Pineiro, members of the Central Committee, attended the presentation, along with the juries of the Casa de las Americas prize for 1990.

Dominican Republic

Balaguer Discusses Ties With Socialist Countries

FL0902173390 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer has said that conditions do not exist for the country to establish relations with socialist countries, specifically Cuba. The leader expressed his opinion when answering a question related to statements made by Deputy Foreign Minister Fabio Herrera Cabral to the effect that the Dominican Republic should establish diplomatic relations with socialist countries.

Balaguer said it is still premature to talk about extensive relations with the socialists because the country is too small. He said that the Dominican Republic should not participate in or rush into announcing plans of that nature. The president did not discard the possibility of

the establishment of those types of relations by the government that will be in charge after the elections.

The head of state made these statements during a news conference he granted at the inauguration of a housing complex in the community of El Potroso Elias Pinas.

Haiti

Further on Release of Political Prisoners

Names Published

FL0902182190 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 8 Feb 90 txt
[Excerpt] The Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination has published the names of the citizens released from prison under the full amnesty granted them by the government. They are: Sylvan Jolibois, Erbe Morovia, Frank Cenat, Fernand Gerard Laforest, Marie-Denise Douyon, Evans Paul, Marineau Etienne, Jean Auguste Mesyeux, Wilner Metellus, Charlot Reynold, Jean Thomas, Cesar Henri, Louis Jean Duval, Delinois Jamson, Gelsey Joseph Fils, Amazone Jean Frankel, Dimanche Jean Renel, Frank Rene, and Frantz Patrick Beauchard. [passage omitted]

Released Prisoner on Regime

FL0902181990 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Interview with fomer prisoner Evans Paul by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Jean Auguste Mesyeux, Evans Paul, Marineau Etienne, and Patrick Beauchard were released on 7 February, prior to the government decree granting them amnesty. We interviewed Evans Paul, who spent approximately three months in prison.

[Paul] I can say the experience gives us greater conviction regarding the task we have assigned ourselves: to fight arbitrariness and repression. We remain determined to continue this struggle, because it is up to us Haitians to fix everything that is not right in our country. [passage omitted]

They released us the same way they arrested us—arbitrarily. I say they released me arbitrarily because they just called me in and told me they were releasing me. They did not tell me how this had come about. They did not say whether it was a judicial decision or a military decision.

When they arrested me, they arrested me without a warrant. They said I had weapons. No justice of the peace came to take formal notice to see if it was true or not—or who could prove it one way or another. Today they are releasing me, but they did not say why. Was it a decision of the Court of Appeals? The Court of Appeals was supposed to hand down a decision on this today. [passage omitted] My opinion is that we have been released from a small prison to a bigger prison. The small prison is the national penitentiary. The big prison is the country itself, with the repressive and arbitrary system installed. As long as this system exists, no one is exempt; we can at any moment fall back into a situation such as this one, which can result in the worst. What happened to us is the least that could have happened to us. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] How do you feel about being released without having gone to court after all the manhandling and beatings to which you were subjected?

[Paul] I cannot say we did not go to court, because we went before the Court of Appeals on 24 January during the state of siege. [passage omitted]

We do not know if the Court of Appeals ruled to release us. We cannot say that is why we were released. They have not told me that is why I have been released; nor do I have any document saying that is why. [passage omitted] The military in charge of the national penitentiary simply told me I had been released. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Have you been released provisionally or definitively?

[Paul] Unconditionally. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] We remind listeners that this interview with Evans Paul as he left prison took place even before the military government issued its decree saying it was granting amnesty to political prisoners in Haiti. [passage omitted]

Claude Questions Decree

FL0902190390 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Excerpts] We have reaction from several political leaders after 19 prisoners—among them Jean Auguste Mesyeux, Evans Paul, Marineau Etienne, and Frantz Patrick Beauchard—were granted amnesty. Reverend Sylvio Claude, leader of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party, PDCH, says he is pleased with the release of these prisoners. However, he wonders what pushed General Avril to make such a decision when the general had said he would not forgive them. Rev. Claude says the release violates judicial principles, because the general did not give the judiciary time to issue a final verdict as to whether the men were guilty or not.

[Begin Claude recording] [passage omitted] Why did he change his mind? I mean, a dictator does not change his mind easily unless he is forced. [passage omitted] This is a tactical political move that falls within the framework of his global strategy. You have to retreat to better advance.

What we would like to know is what led him to make such a retreat? [passage omitted]

Is it because you were afraid of the verdict? Is it because you know that you said they were criminals and the court was going to say that they were not? [passage omitted]

There are other questions. Could it be that the government is doing what Namphy did—making a tactical retreat so it can rise up and strike harder farther down the line? And I say—I have said it before and I repeat it—Gen. Avril's global strategy is to keep power. In fact, he even recently said it straight out, clearly, in Cite Soleil. He said: I spoke French to the people who are bugging me. I talked to them about elections. But you yourselves know there is no question of such a thing. What you need is food and work.

Thus, he clearly stated that he is not into elections, as I had said. I am not surprised to hear him say this. Thus, all these things Avril is doing—releasing people, making pretty speeches, and so forth—is perhaps aimed at pulling the wool over his boss' eyes, as I have always said. It is perhaps an attempt to see if he can get the boss to go along with him. He said in Cite Soleil: They should give us massive amounts of money, massive aid, lots of money. That is what we need! I do not need them to tell me to hold elections or do this, that, or the other. I need them to give me lots of money.

I say that the release of these men creates many questions that perhaps only Avril himself can answer. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Union Leader on Divisiveness, Electioneering

FL0902182990 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Joseph Manusi Pierre, secretary general of the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers, says he is regarding the conquests of 7 February with sorrow, since they cost much bloodshed and yet are on the verge of dying. [passage omitted] Pierre says the uprooting was not completed, the people's camp is full of divisions, and political leaders are too eager to go to elections.

[Begin Pierre recording] The reason we have gone backward is that the uprooting was not really completed. There were sides taken in the uprooting. Many soldiers hid many torturers, many macoutes. They accepted money from these people in exchange for protecting them. There is division and quarreling among the people's camp; it is being torn asunder.

Also, this business of elections has demobilized the masses. Certain political leaders—I do not know if it is that they do not know the country's realities, or if it is that they have not gotten a grip on themselves so they can analyze the juncture—but once the electoral calendar was published, once elections were mentioned, these men forgot about everything else and threw themselves wholeheartedly into elections.

This what led us, first of all, to November 1987, and second, put us under General Avril. Today we find ourselves at a crossroads at which we must not back off, where we must not hesitate to say what we truly want. We must say that we do not want a military government anymore and that we do not want Gen. Avril. We must say that we want a credible civilian who will ensure the transition to democracy, and who will hold unfettered, honest, democratic elections. [end recording]

Emigrants Protest in Guadeloupe, Martinique

FL0902234090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 0950 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Excerpts] We will now talk about 7 February 1990. We will also talk about the failure of the call for a general mobilization, on the occasion of 7 February, made by the Committee Against Repression, one of whose members is the People's National Assembly.

In any case, such was not the case abroad. There were numerous demonstrations, among others in Guadeloupe and Martinique. According to journalists on the scene in Guadeloupe, more than 1,000 people demonstrated yesterday in Pointe-a-Pitre on an international day of solidarity with the Haitian people. There were no incidents. The demonstrators, a majority of whom were Haitian emigrants, chanted slogans hostile to General Prosper Avril and to dictatorships. The Association of Haitian Workers on Guadeloupe and several other union and political groups, among them the local federations of the Socialist Party and the Assembly for the Republic, had either called for or expressed support for this demonstration.

Before marching through the streets of Pointe-a-Pitre, the demonstrators attended a mass praying for our country. In a message to Haitians living in Guadeloupe, the island's bishop, Monseigneur Ernest (Cabot) affirmed, among other things, that the situation in Haiti cannot leave the people and Church of Guadeloupe indifferent.

Also, according to Dr. Jean-Marie Pean, president of the Association of Haitian Workers in Guadeloupe, there was a similar demonstration yesterday in Fort-de-France, Martinique, where the Haitian general consulate was occupied by the demonstrators. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording of unidentified Radio Guadeloupe correspondent, from Martinique] This morning a small commando of members of the Committee of Solidarity with Haiti, who are in favor of democracy in Haiti, occupied the consulate. They forced the consul to see them. [passage omitted] The consul refused to make any statements to the press. He even refused to allow journalists into the consulate. They had to stand outside the door. Nevertheless, we were able to obtain some information through Max Casimir, president of the Association of Haitians in Martinique. He told us the consul was a bit irritated, but (?later calmed down). [passage omitted] It seems the Haitian Embassies [as heard] in Miami and Montreal have also been overrun by demonstrators, so far without violence, in memory of the uprooting of Duvalier on 7 February 1986. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Ties With Cuba To Be Reestablished 'This Year'

FL1002011190 Bridgetown CANA in English 2244 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 9, CANA—Jamaica is to re-establish diplomatic relations with Cuba this year, Prime Minister Michael Manley said Friday. Manley who was being interviewed during a radio call-in programme on his first anniversary in office said that relations would be on a non-resident basis. He said that discussions had been going on between representatives of both countries through the United Nations mission and most of the issues had been ironed out where diplomatic relations would be re-established first on a non-resident basis and then to a resident basis. "That is going to take place some time during the course of this year," Manley said.

Jamaica had close ties with Cuba during Manley's administration of the 1970s. When Manley was defeated in 1980, the new prime minister, Edward Seaga, broke off diplomatic ties with the communist state.

Prior to the 1989 general elections, Manley said that he would re-establish normal diplomatic ties with Havana but made it clear that ties would not be as warm as before.

The Manley government established full diplomatic relations with Cuba in December 1972 in a joint move with Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Barbados. As relations warmed between both countries, many Jamaicans felt that the island was becoming a surrogate of Cuba. The relations also angered the U.S. which virtually cut off aid to Jamaica.

The situation worsened in 1979 when Manley came to the defence of then Cuban ambassador, Ulises Estrada, who was accused by the opposition Jamaica Labour Party [JLP] and others of declaring war on the Jamaican people while responding to criticisms about Cuban involvement in the island's internal affairs. When the JLP came to power Estrada was declared persona non grata and in 1981 diplomatic relations were terminated. The Cubans have maintained ownership of their embassy building in Kingston, a former apartment complex shut since 1981.

St. Lucia

Compton Warns Demonstrators To Obey Law

FL1002185690 Bridgetown CANA in English 1639 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Feb 10, CANA—Prime Minister John Compton has warned that anyone who violates the laws relating to demonstrations in public will be dealt with. Compton was on radio and television Friday—the second time in a week—speaking mainly about a demonstration by banana farmers led by opposition leader Julian Hunte and ousted St. Lucia Banana Growers Association [SLBGA] Chairman Rupert Gajadhar. The march included a stop at government buildings where the protestors attempted to present the government with a petition. They were, however, prevented from entering the compound and many were involved in scuffles with policemen armed with guns, teargas cannisters and batons.

Friday night Compton complained that both Hunte and Gajadhar seeme to provoke "open confrontation" with the police. "As the minister responsible for law and order, let it be clearly understood that anyone who violates the law relating to demonstrations will be dealt with under the law. No one must consider himself or herself above the law. This is the sure prescription for chaos and should it be allowed to go unchecked we will be creating a monster of 1979, and this we cannot allow," he said. In 1979, hundreds of St. Lucians stormed the commercial centre, breaking show windows and looting, after a meeting of the United Workers Party was broken up by thugs. It happened less than a month after the party lost to the St. Lucia Labour Party in the 1979 general elections.

Compton said he was in Miami last Friday when he received an urgent telephone message that there were riots in the streets of Castries and that riot police had been called out. He said Hunte, as leader of the opposition and a businessman, is or should be fully aware of the laws of the country, which require that police permission be sought for a march. "Hunte, who recently called for an inquiry into the Ministry of Works, should know that a public inquiry is also on into the affairs of the SLBGA," Compton said.

Compton said that over the years, his government had stood with the SLBGA in all its difficulties. "When the SLBGA runs into any financial difficulties, my government has always been there to support it. Indeed the revival of the banana industry after its decline during 1979-82 came about through an initiative which I personally took in calling the farmers together," Compton added.

Compton referred to the recent problems facing the police force including the shortage of manpower, and said that the resources of the force could be diverted to prevent an illegal demonstration. He called on St. Lucians to unite "in this battle for the respect of the laws of the state" and warned that "those who wish to lead should first learn to obey."

New Works, Transport Minister Appointed

FL0902205090 Bridgetown CANA in English 2030 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Feb 9, CANA—St. Lucia has a new minister for communications and work and transport—Gregory Avril.

Avril was minister of state in the Ministry of Communications and Works. He has also served as the minister of state in the Ministry of Agriculture. Avril replaces Senator Desmond Fostin who resigned amid allegations of corruption in his ministry.

He is to be assisted by back bencher and former Minister of Communications and Works Allan Bousquet, as a special adviser. Avril, who was sworn in Friday, is the parlimentary representative for Castries East.

Trinidad and Tobago

Breakaway Faction Challenges Official Opposition

FL0902182790 Bridgetown CANA in English 1633 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Report by Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 9, CANA—A breakaway faction of Trinidad and Tobago's ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) has signalled its readiness to take over as the official opposition party. But opposition leader Patrick Manning says he isn't worried about the United National Congress' [UNC] threat to oust his People's National Movement [PNM].

In the 36-member House of Representatives, the UNC has six seats—won on an NAR ticket in 1986—to the three held by the PNM, but only recently indicated it was moving to take over as the official opposition. The situation facing UNC leader Basdeo Panday, however, is not as simple as what faced Barbadian Party leader Dr. Richie Haynes last year; for Haynes, it was just a question of the governor general selecting the person commanding the majority of support on the opposition benches. But for Panday and the other NAR dissidents it could mean a series of by-elections.

The United National Congress was officially formed in April 1989 by former NAR ministers led by expelled NAR deputy leader, Panday. Panday, now recovered from a January heart operation in London, returned to the public political scene this week. Panday and his sharp-tongued supporters have been launching caustic verbal attacks on the government front benches while sitting in NAR seats. Part of the problem had been the constitutional and legal provisions necessary to oust such MP's.

Panday has been arguing that the ball was in the government's court since the NAR needed to notify the speaker of the house of the expulsions, setting in preparations for by-elections within three months' time in the expelled ministers' constituencies.

However, the PNM is arguing that the Constitution and a 1981 "crossing of the floor" act as well as 1978 changes to the Constitution on mechanisms to vacate a seat in Parliament might hamper Panday's intentions for re-election to the House in this parliamentary term.

In the legal uncertainty over how exactly to go about the changes, some political pundits have argued that Panday and his supporters could be removed from Parliament and government would not even have to call fresh elections in those constituencies until general elections, due in 1991. Faced with this stalemate position, little had been said on the subject as the UNC worked on what it called its mobilisation programme, seeking to enlist members from beyond the central Trinidad stronghold Panday commands as both politician and main sugar union president.

However, this week, Panday has hinted twice that the UNC is now willing to test the law and seek re-election to the House of Representatives on UNC, instead of NAR tickets. Panday told a meeting of UNC constituency chairmen on Wednesday night that there was a growing feeling the UNC should seek to claim its opposition status. He told this party meeting that that decision must be taken by the general membership as to whether this was the route to take.

On Thursday night, Panday made his first public appearance since recovering from his heart operation in London."There is a growing impression in Trinidad and Tobago, both within and outside the UNC that we should assume our role as the official opposition party," Panday told the Thursday public meeting at the Rienzi Complex, Couva. "If we do that, then that must be a matter subject to discussion at party level," he added.

Panday want further suggestions mechanisms be put in place for the selection of senators—the six opposition upper house members the official opposition leader has a right to recommend to the president for appointment. [sentence as received] One suggestion was that the six regions his party had divided Trinidad and Tobago into, for mobilisation purposes, each recommend a Senate representative.

"I am not worried. I have been hearing about this for the past two years," PNM leader Manning was quoted by the press Friday as saying. Manning insisted that provisions of the governing Constitution meant that government has three months to declare by-elections after the vacancies in the House have been declared. He added, however, that if Panday and his supporters resign from the House in the final year of Parliament, government need only wait until general elections for anything to happen.

The NAR came to power with 33 seats in the House of Representatives. Currently Panday, the MP for Couva North has the open support in the House of seats held by the MP's for Couva South, Siparia, Naparima, St. Augustine, and Oropouche.

Reportage on Reaction to Renegotiation Accord

Labor Leaders Voice Praise

PA1002000890 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 5 Feb 90 p 2

[Report by Anne Labrousse]

[Text] As a result of the external debt renegotiation, Mexico's horizon is wider, the goal was to overcome inequalities accumulated in the past, said President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Sunday.

"Mexico has decided to be a strong nation, just and active in the 21st century," Salinas said.

Salinas spoke at the National Palace during the official ceremony in which Mexico's external debt renegotiation was signed by 15 representatives from Mexico's largest 450 creditor banks.

One of the conditions for the international banks to agree with the package was the economic changes that the Salinas administration has undertaken.

Among the recent changes were the opening of the economy and the privatization of state enterprises which almost immediately led to labor unrest.

Fidel Velasquez, the Mexican Workers Confederation leader, (CTM), who also attended the ceremony, was optimistic about the agreement outcome.

"One of the most immediate benefits of Mexico's external debt renegotiation will be the improvement of the working class condition, he told the THE NEWS.

The CTM leader said that as soon as the agreement enters into effect, Mexico will have the necessary conditions to satisfy the needs of its population.

"Just as the president told us," he said. "We will keep fighting so that salaries can increase at a time when our country once again benefits from a better economic situation," he said.

Velasquez said that the working class needs are far from being met yet, but that there will be no wage increase for now.

"Salary increases will be discussed in December when the matter has to be revised according to the law. We will try to get the most out of these revisions," he said.

The CTM leader said that workers most likely to obtain a wage increase are the ones integrated within the Collective Contract.

"We just resolved the problems in Matamoros where workers received a 20 percent salary increase," he said.

Lorenzo Duarte, leader of the labor Congress, said the signing of the agreement is an extraordinary achievement.

"The renegotiation will encourage foreign investors to work with Mexico. This movement in our country will allow us to generate new sources of employment," he said.

Duarte added that the Pact for Economic Solidarity (PECE) should continue and that the voracity of business owners who violate the Pact must be sanctioned.

Claudio X. Gonzalez, president of the Entrepreneurs Coordinating Council, said that the signing of the debt renegotiation packages as part of Mexico's modernization process to generate more opportunities for all Mexicans.

"What we are doing is promoting our competitive power and our potential to be a positive and active participant in all the commercial and technological trends in the world," Gonzalez said.

"If we did not we would run the risk of staying behind, we just can't take that risk," he said.

Paper Calls Event 'Historic'

PA1002002390 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 5 Feb 90 p 10

[Editorial: "Historic Agreement"]

[Text] With nary a sign of jet lag showing on his face following a grueling hard-sell tour of Europe, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari ushered Mexico Sunday into a new era of "stable growth, without inflation."

Despite all the naysayers' allegations that the debt accord doesn't really do that much for Mexico's dire economic situation, there is no hiding the fact that the accord was an indispensable morale booster. This is especially true of the way the pact was signed, persuading the international financial community's creme de la creme to undertake an unprecedented journey to the National Palace, where so many of Mexico's historical events have taken place.

Inevitably, the accord is loaded with figures that reflect its multilateral nature—the amount negotiated with the Paris Club, with the IMF, with the Japanese government, the World Bank, and of course with the nearly 500 commercial banks. But for practical purposes, the president resumed it thus—a net reduction of 20.5 billion dollars (from 100.3 billion at Dec. 31, 1988 to 79.889 billion today), with the foreign debt's proportion of the Gross Domestic Product being trimmed from 60 percent to 40 percent in the same comparative period.

The luminous midday ceremony, with the Court of Honor bedecked with Mexican flags and banners, was beamed in an international satellite hookup clearly intended to show the skeptics that this country has come of age and is emerging from the debt crunch as a land of opportunity.

Key figures in the international financial arena were on hand to lend the pact moral support—U.S. Treasury

Secretary Nicholas Brady (who got special recognition from President Salinas); Citicorp chairman John Reed; IMF chief Michael Camdessus; and the heads of the 14 other institutions comprising the comittee for Mexico.

"At this juncture, there can be no doubt that Mexico is in a strategic position," the president had emphasized on returning from Europe before dawn Sunday.

The president makes no effort at all to conceal over the fast changes taking place in Eastern Europe. Without a doubt, the debt accord contemplates sizable foreign investments to keep the country on the growth path, especially now that the winds of devaluation appear to be ominously blowing. Just when the Salinas team is confident of having managed the right environment to attract European investment, interest is already being distracted by the prospect of fresh opportunities opening up within Eastern Europe.

In his highly charged, nationalistic keynote address that closed the debt accord signing ceremony with a fluorish, Salinas underscored a central theme of his European junket—that the Mexican economy has permanently discarded protectionism and is firmly wedded to the global economy.

Although structural reform of the economy began in earnest three years ago, towards the end of the Miguel de la Madrid administration, the government is convinced that the catalyst for the country's new mood of confidence was last July's agreement with the commercial banks on restructuring 48.5 billion dollars of medium- and long-term debt. "The net result was not only important in the saving of national resources but it has also been very important in providing confidence to Mexicans." The president stresed that as a result (of the July accord), "Mexico is now viewed in a new, more respectful light, one of which all Mexicans can feel very proud."

President Salinas denies that the ultimate financial benefit is limited, as pointed out last week in articles by The Wall Street Journal and London's Financial Times. However, he is fond of pointing out: "It (the July agreement) did not solve our problems...our problems will continue and we shall have to put additional effort into making the economy more efficient...But without the agreement, no matter what effort we put into it domestically, we wouldn't have been able to recover growth."

The officials on hand Sunday did not spare praise for the government's efforts to reach a friendly agreement on its foreign debt: "Mexico did not choose the easy road of those that believe in miraculous remedies," noted the IMF's Camdessus. "This country believes in negotiating, in mutual trust and in friendly dialogue. In my view, it deserves much praise for that."

Brady—who will hereafter keep his fingers crossed in hope that this, the first test of the developing world relief plan he authored meets with success—said Mexico had become "a beam of light for many other countries with similar (foreign debt) problems." Reed, meanwhile, praised the Salinas government's willingness to "undertake difficult decisions...at a time when there was no flexibility, no room for maneuver. We're here not so much to celebrate the signing of this agreement, but to celebrate the years of opportunity facing Mexico."

In Mexico, leading economists—including Sergio Sarmiento—agree that with the debt servicing break brought by the accord, the Salinas administration will now be able to concentrate even more on attracting foreign investments.

The government in effect faces a fistful of major challenges it must deal with almost simultaneously. The grip on wage-price controls appears to have been lost, with the ensuing inflationary pressures. Inflation control is a vital prerequisite of the government's overall economic strategy, along with a continuing fiscal reform to expand the taxable base and strict budget discipline.

The debt accord is clearly not a panacea. It may not even bring an immediate, visible, measurable relief to the woes of millions of impoverished Mexicans. But despite the shortcomings that are attributed to it, the agreement is sure to mark the beginning of better times, enabling Mexico to assume its rightful place on the global arena.

Reportage on Solana's Visit to Morocco

WA1202144590

For reportage on Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana Morales' visit to Morocco, see the Morocco section of the 12 February and subsequent issues of the Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT.

Tension Continues To Mount in Guerrero State

FL0902161890 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1540 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Chilpancingo, 9 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Approximately 2,500 soldiers are patrolling the city of Chilpancingo, while more than 1,500 armed Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] members continue their stand-in in front of the municipal palace. A few hours before Guerrero State Governor Francisco Ruiz Massieu delivers his third government report, the city of Chilpancingo lives a tense calm.

Groups of peasants, armed with machetes, began gathering near the mayor's office last night. The peasants are supporting the PRD members who began a stand-in on Monday to demand an end to political repression. The peasants bang their weapons against the ground whenever they see the soldiers patrolling the streets of the city in armored personnel vehicles and trucks.

The PRD members in Guerrero State have demanded an end to the political repression that has already resulted in approximately 20 deaths. They are also demanding that

their victory in 13 municipalities, following the December legislative and municipal elections, be recognized.

Following the December elections, the PRD and the Institutional Revolutionary Party have clashed on several occasions. They are both demanding recognition for their alleged victories in various municipalities throughout the state.

The climate of tension experienced in Chilpancingo is the result of yesterday's announcement by PRD state leader Rosalio Wences Reza, who said that dramatic events will take place while the governor is presenting his report. Wences Reza said that this will be their way to pressure for a negotiated solution to the electoral problem.

Even though Wences Reza said that the stand-in outside the municipal palace would be a peaceful one, the demonstrators are armed with machetes and other sharp-edged objects, as well as with sticks and stones.

Meanwhile, the local district attorney's office has reported that four persons involved in the killings of three PRD members in Durazno, Tixtla Municipality, on 13 January, have been arrested. These killings were carried out within the framework of the postelectoral violence. The district attorney's office said that it is expecting to arrest the remaining three suspects in the next few days. It has also been reported that the persons involved in other attacks against the PRD members will also be arrested.

First Phase of Oil Pipeline Project Completed

PA0902233990 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 5 Feb 90 p 2

[Report by Felix Arciniega]

[Text] The first phase of the Pacific Petroleum Project—whose completion was expected in 1992 at a cost of 770 million dollars, has been finished ahead of time by special Japanese financing at a lower initial investment.

The 265 kilometer long pipeline begins in Nueva Teapa, Veracruz, crosses to Salina Cruz, Oaxaca, and traverses the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The completed project fulfills two objectives. It facilitates the export of oil to Japan, and supplies fuel oil to West Coast consumers.

The Pacific Petroleum Project (PPP) was conceived by Pemex to increase economic activity in the region. To implement the project, the company asked Japan for assistance and received 500 million dollars conditioned on progress achieved and upon the periodic payment of construction bills.

Jose Ochoa Zuniga, assistant project director and construction manager for Pemex said that his company complemented the investment which came to 492 billion pesos in 1989.

The project also increases storage capacity of liquid natural gas, ammonia and port infrastructure in Veracruz.

An ammonia production complex is included in the port of Lazaro Cardenas in the state of Michoacan. All of these projects are currently ahead of schedule but the oilduct, which was constructed in record time, together with oil storage caverns, play a very important and strategic part in Mexico's participation in the Pacific Rim trade project which will benefit both Mexico and Japan.

The first tanker to benefit from the new oilduct was the "Nichioh" which carried the first shipment of 1,68 million barrels of Istmo and Maya crude to Japan.

Ranking Jalisco Official Wounded in Shooting

PA1202015090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0128 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Guadalajara (Mexico), 11 Feb (EFE)—It was reported today that three individuals shot and seriously wounded a top official of the Attorney General's Office who recently participated in the arrest of drug mafia bosses in Jalisco State. According to the local press, Javier Orozco Orozco, director of detentions of the Federal Judicial Police in Jalisco State in western Mexico, was shot at from a moving station wagon as he walked through Guadalajara's La Estrella Park.

The local Green Cross reported that Orozco received two wounds from .38-caliber bullets, one in the chest near the heart and other in the arm; his condition was reported as serious. In addition, three passers-by were slightly wounded in the incident.

Press reports state that two leaders of a band of thieves arrested by Orozco had threatened him with kidnapping and killing his family. Orozco also participated in the arrest of Enrique Felix Gallardo, chief of the so-called "Guadalajara Cartel."

*Salinas' New Year's Message Published

90EM0081A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 8 Jan 90 pp 1, 8

["Text" of 7 January New Year's message to nation by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: Many thanks for taking me into your home. On this new year, I wish very briefly to say a few words to you about the effort we made over the past year and the outlook for the year that is beginning.

For Mexico and the world, 1989 was a year of profound change. On the world scene, walls have toppled that were built as barriers to the exchange of ideas, cultures, traditions, and values. Events appear to herald an end to extremist ideologies, arrogance, and intolerance. However, they also remind us that the great principles by which civilized nations coexist are in constant peril

unless the peoples of the world stand absolutely firm in the defense of their right to self-determination and nonintervention in their internal affairs.

Paradoxically, the countries once vanquished by World War II, today, through their peaceful and constructive spirit, are gaining unexpected strength in technological development and international finance. New poles of economic power and industrial capacity define a world of many actors. Countries are uniting for joint action through such emerging blocs as the European Community in 1992, the common market already under way between the United States and Canada, and new forms of integration in the Pacific basin.

As a consequence, the world is more interdependent and competition to export is intensifying. New technologies are changing patterns of production and consumption. Today, a single product has parts manufactured in many places. The revolution in telecommunications shrinks distances. Those who get ahead do so by producing higher-quality goods at less cost, and by being well organized in the effort to win. Nations that do not know how to adapt to this new kind of competition fall behind and, what is even more distressing, their peoples suffer.

It is still not clear where all these changes in the world will lead. For many countries,they are bound to open up new opportunities; for others, there are grave risks. There is no guarantee that anything will change for the better. The ability to live together in a society at peace can be endangered if changes come more rapidly than people want, if they violate their traditions, if they go beyond what is possible. Countries that initiate economic changes but fail to consolidate them today suffer crises more difficult than in the past. Only nations with internal unity, a sense of their own history, a commitment to work, and the will not to lower their guard can move ahead, avoiding risk and taking advantage of opportunities. I am sure Mexico is one of these nations.

In our country we began to prepare ourselves even before change became visible on the world scene. In a responsible manner, we sought to modernize the economy, broaden democracy, and improve the well-being of the entire population, beginning with those most in need.

We know orderly change is the road to making our country stronger in the face of great worldwide transformation. This is how we will achieve unity, compete in the international economy, and assure that all Mexicans truly benefit: you who are kind enough to watch and listen to me and, above all, those who have the greatest need.

The effort that you made in 1989, as the world began such a complicated awakening, allowed Mexico to take important strides that will strengthen it in the new era. Thus, we reached a satisfactory negotiation of the external debt, which enables our efforts to yield new growth and hopes for greater well-being. Inflation today is at its lowest point in a decade. Our economy has grown more than our population, although that growth is not yet even throughout the Republic and does not extend to all sectors.

In the political sphere, we took a stride toward consolidating our democracy. In state and municipal elections, effective winners, upon gaining their victories, were recognized without regard to the party nominating the candidates. The constitutional reforms adopted by the Congress will open the door to a new electoral system on a par with a new political culture of respect, transparency, and tolerance.

Mexico today is a stronger country internally, and, as a consequence, enjoys greater respect in the world. This is because we worked hard; because we are serious about what we say and what we do; and because we abide by our own laws and observe the standards of international behavior. This is recognized abroad.

The year 1990 marks the beginning of a decade in which we must achieve true justice. In economic terms, we propose this year to continue lowering inflation while maintaining the pace of investment growth and, above all, of job creation. We must do this by redoubling the effort and self-discipline needed to consolidate and safeguard what has been achieved thus far.

We are going to work very hard at improving conditions in the Mexican countryside. Today it is going through difficult times. It is not possible to aspire to a better life if the countryside continues to be mired in the past, decapitalized, and, to a distressing degree, socially backward. My administration will spare no effort on behalf of rural Mexico, the source of our history and the sustenance of our well-being.

I want to highlight for you the program to which my administration will give special priority: that of solidarity. We will strive to eliminate the extreme poverty afflicting many of our countrymen: peasants, underserved groups of urban dwellers in working-class colonias [urban communities], and indigenous communities that continue to languish in isolation.

We intend to considerably increase government investment in the National Solidarity Program. This is the new program that seeks to combine government action and the efforts of everyone in improving the response to those who have least, those pleading for such basic services as drinking water, electricity, nutrition, housing, health, and much better education. Educational modernization will get the highest priority. In quality education and the provision of essential services, we will move more quickly and more effectively in 1990.

I am convinced that solidarity is a trait that distinguishes us as Mexicans. It inspires us to cooperate, to unite, to assume responsibilities. It is the quality that is going to give new moral balance to the modernization of the country.

I am convinced that when there is solidarity among all Mexicans, there is no obstacle we cannot overcome, nor any goal we cannot reach. What finally makes the difference is to have everyone united around a common goal. The basic lesson left us by the year when we said farewell to the 80's is that we must now make 1990 the year of solidarity.

Therefore, I respectfully invite you, I call on you, to join in this program, to participate, to extend genuine fraternity to those who have least, recognizing the great dignity with which they confront their adversity.

It is fitting to reiterate that tolerance and mutual respect provide the only climate in which true democracy can flourish. Therefore, only unity with respect for citizens of differing opinions can guarantee a society free of conflict and anxiety where families may live better lives. It is the responsibility of everyone and the obligation of my administration to promote unity and strict adherence to the law.

Fellow countrymen:

Every change, every adjustment, every transformation has its cost, but ours has been within the law. At all times, we have sought dialogue and unity. We live in freedom, and the Republic is at peace. Let us never forget the enormous value this represents.

The source of our strength as a nation, our common heritage, was created by generations that imaginatively and courageously undertook, first, our independence and then the building of a sovereign state. In the present century, our forbears forged an enterprise founded on the very hopes of the populace. We are indebted to them all for a history we are entitled to be proud of and on which we will stake a future. Let us always remember our heroes and the symbols of our nationhood which show us the sturdy stuff of which we are made.

We have laws and institutions that guide our life and allow Mexicans to continue to differ among themselves in total freedom and, at the same time, to achieve our goals with unity, sovereignty, and justice. We are men and women, adults and young people, who believe in Mexico, who suffer its setbacks and rejoice in its good fortune. Our nationalism grows out of our struggles and our historic experience. It is founded on bonds of family, friendship, and tradition that enable us to trust one another and to believe in Mexico as the family we all share.

Today, we must step into the new decade, the last of the century as well as the millennium. We will strive to give all we can of ourselves and to show by our deeds our love for Mexico.

My family and I wish the best for every one of you, that there be peace and tranquility in your homes; that your efforts in the work, in school, and at home yield to each of you the results you desire.

We hope that 1990 be a prosperous year for you and, above all, a year of good fortune for our country.

Costa Rica

President Arias Comments on PLN Defeat

FL1002133590 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1812 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Report by Yazmin Ross]

[Text] San Jose, 9 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias has stated that the next Costa Rican Government will have to continue to play an active role in the Central American peace process. In an interview with NOTIMEX, the president stated that when his term ends and he hands power over to Rafael Calderon, he will use his influence to ensure there will be no deviations in the Esquipulas II peace process.

Arias said the electoral defeat of the National Liberation Party (PLN), to which he belongs, by Calderon's Social Christian Unity Party was the result of the wear and tear of holding power. He believed that the opposition victory was also because: We were facing an opposition candidate with whom it was very difficult to compete, one who made demogoguery an ideology...and was making a lot of promises. He denied that the PLN defeat was a reaction by the Costa Rican people against his government, since: 93 percent of the population is satisfied with my administration. He added: If the elections had been between Arias and Calderon, I would have won again. The problem is that I cannot run for reelection.

Interviewed at his office in the Zapote Presidential Palace in this capital, Arias said that Costa Rican foreign policy should not be weakened in the next four years. However, he stated that after ending his term he will continue to exert his influence to prevent deviations from the Esquipulas II commitments: I am not going to be a passive spectator. With the Nobel Peace Prize for a sounding board, I am not going to let the plan fail.

He stated that after 8 May when he turns over the presidential sash to his successor, he will return to academic life. He has no intention of participating in domestic politics or in the reorganization of his party, the PLN, following the electoral defeat. He added that his aim is to carry out work similar to that of former U.S. President James Carter to promote democracy and human rights, through the Arias Peace Foundation.

The Contadora Group—Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama—has made a lot of progress, but some Central American governments were resentful because someone was coming from outside to tell them what they should do, Arias added. He said: Contadora did not make mistakes, but its proposal was very complex because it emphasized the security of the states and disarmament...In 1987 I limited myself to offering a simpler but stronger proposal because it was a Central American initiative.

Arias also denied having distanced himself from the rest of Latin America, especially in the case of the U.S. invasion of Panama. He said that the invasion had the approval of a large majority of the Costa Rican population and the Panamanian people themselves. However, he deplored the U.S. military operation, because: I cannot agree with a country's being invaded every time there is a dictator. The president denied that the agreement signed in October to reduce his country's debt by $1 billion put conditions on Costa Rican neutrality and forced greater submission to U.S. policy.

In the case of Nicaragua, he asserted that holding free and democratic elections after 10 years of Sandinist revolution would be equivalent to killing Dracula with a cross. Arias said that he could not say whether President Daniel Ortega would be reelected but asserted that Nicaragua will not be the same after 25 February even if the Sandinist National Liberation Front wins, because there are fewer and fewer communists in the world. Marxism is breaking up, and they are being left in the lurch.

'Libyan-Trained Guerrilla Group' Members Arrested

PA0902191590 Paris AFP in Spanish 1758 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] San Jose, 9 Feb (AFP)—The Costa Rican Judicial Investigations Agency [OIJ] has reported the capture of 11 nationals who allegedly belong to a Libyan-trained guerrilla group that was planning to attack U.S., French, and Israeli interests in the region.

According to the police report, the detained men belong to the clandestine Santamaria Patriotic Organization [Organizacion Patriotica Santamaria, OPS], which is made up of approximately 50 Costa Ricans who, with other Latin American extremists, were recruited by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's regime after the U.S. Air Force bombed Tripoli and Benghazi in 1986.

The investigations on the presumed guerrilla organization, which were conducted by special OIJ agents, revealed a relationship between the Costa Rican men and Latin American guerrilla movements. In addition, the police reported that some of the detained men participated in the offensive that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front launched in San Salvador in November 1989.

According to the police, three dynamite attacks perpetrated against the U.S. Consulate and other U.S. offices in San Jose, which resulted in several people being injured, have been attributed to this group.

The OIJ has asserted that the OPS had plans to attack the U.S., French, and Israeli Embassies in San Jose, as well as other offices, in the future. It was also said that some of the group's leaders had traveled to Libya via Nicaragua, Panama, Cuba, Spain, the Netherlands, and Yugoslavia.

The arrested men will be handed over to the Costa Rican courts under charges of illicit association. Meanwhile, the police are still trying to locate the alleged leaders of the group.

In 1982, the Costa Ricans dismantled a clandestine organization called "The Family," which was also charged with perpetrating several terrorist actions and attempting to destabilize the country's constitutional government. At that time, Viviana Gallardo, a student and one of the leading figures in "The Family," was assassinated in her own prison cell by a policeman who shot her at close range.

El Salvador

Congressmen To Learn of Jesuit Case Progress

PA1102222190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2118 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The U.S. Embassy in San Salvador reported today that a delegation of 11 U.S. congressmen has arrived in El Salvador to learn about the progress on the investigations into the murder of six Jesuit priests and two servants.

The delegation, headed by Joe Moakley, Democrat from Massachusetts, arrived in El Salvador on a request from Thomas Foley, speaker of the House of Representatives.

During its stay in El Salvador, which will last until February 14, the delegation will meet with President Alfredo Cristiani, the Armed Forces High Command, political and religious leaders, and representatives of labor unions and human rights groups. In addition, the congressmen will visit the Central American University and place a floral wreath at the tomb of Ignacio Ellacuria and the five other Jesuits who were murdered before daybreak on 16 November.

The delegation's visit coincides with the debates in the U.S. Congress on U.S. assistance to El Salvador, which is being increasingly questioned by the Democratic Party.

Communique Cites Ponce on Jesuit Case

PA1002194690 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, communique issued in San Salvador on 9 February]

[Text] Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, head of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, said today that meetings were held daily by the High Command and the various military garrison commanders and were considered routine from 9 November, two days before the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] launched its so-called final offensive. He was referring to a news item datelined in Washington in connection with the Jesuit priests' case.

Col. Ponce expressed regret that the murder case of the Jesuits and the two maids is still being politicized, when in fact the Armed Forces is very eager that the investigations be concluded, which, in the final analysis is what will determine who is to blame so that the guilty may answer to the law for the crimes committed.

Ponce added that these meetings were held between 2000 and 2100 during the counteroffensive that the Army had to carry out to counter the terrorist attacks, which were more like attacks against the Salvadoran people. Tactical and military evaluations were the topics we discussed, argued the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The meetings were held mainly to provide guidelines to the unit chiefs taking part who were militarily defending our fatherland, he added. Col. Ponce said that these working meetings at the general staff should in no way be linked to the sad events that took place in the early morning hours on 16 November, when the Jesuits and their two helpers were murdered.

In conclusion, the high-ranking military leader said that any citizen who may have evidence on the case being investigated should go before the tribunals to supply the information, but should not continue making conjectures that involve the institution of the Salvadoran Armed Forces.

In another report, at 1000 today, FMLN terrorists ambushed a military vehicle carrying four troops belonging to the 2d Infantry Brigade. Lieutenant Miguel Gonzalez Cortes was shot and killed, and three other soldiers were wounded. Their names are: Jaime Ernesto Lopez Ceron, Eliseo Alvaro Chavez, and Carlos Humberto Flores. The terrorist attack was carried out with rifle fire and Claymore mines at Palo Negro Canton, Congo Jurisdiction, Santa Ana Department.

Colonel Ponce Reports Rebel, Army Casualties

PA1002174890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0020 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] San Salvador, 7 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chief of the Salvadoran Armed Forces General Staff, said today that 145 guerrillas and 53 soldiers had been killed in 386 clashes in January within the framework of the counterinsurgency Operation "Victory."

Col. Ponce said that the Army had destroyed 61 camps and thwarted 48 logistical guerrilla operations throughout the country in January, while the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] said it had inflicted 532 Army casualties, including 10 officers, in armed confrontations during the month.

Col. Ponce held the guerrilla movement responsible for the "murder" of 19 people and added that 22 rebels had deserted the FMLN ranks. He stated that the rebels had conducted 235 sabotage operations against the telephone, energy, and transportation systems, as well as the government infrastructure and private property.

Operation "Victory," which began in January, was aimed at attacking the guerrilla groups that stayed behind in the outskirts of San Salvador and the country's main cities after the rebel offensive of 11 November 1989.

Ponce said that 45 percent of the Salvadoran Army (approximately 30,000 soldiers) is participating in the nationwide operation. The Army confiscated 186 weapons of various calibers during the confrontations in January.

Ponce added that 1,980 people, most of them youths, have been kidnapped by the rebels since 11 November and are receiving guerrilla training in Chalatenango, Morazan, and Usulutan Departments.

According to official sources, in the last decade the Salvadoran guerrilla movement has inflicted approximately $430 million in economic losses to the country as a result of telecommunication and energy sabotage operations.

Ponce Claims FMLN Planning New Attacks

PA1002004890 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, said at the Cavalry Regiment that the attacks being perpetrated by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] against commercial establishments are part of a postoffensive plan aimed at keeping the people in a psychotic state.

According to Ponce, the FMLN has not dismissed the possibility of terrorism following November's offensive, nor has it dismissed the possibility of a large-scale attack on military centers or hydroelectric plants.

[Begin Ponce recording] They want to continue. They want to keep the psychosis going. I also believe that they may put together the means to launch a somewhat large-scale attack against a military garrison or a strategic objective, such as a hydroelectric plant. We are only trying to foresee what could happen in the future. [end recording]

Col. Ponce said that the plan was detected by military intelligence in January, and the Armed Forces have implemented the appropriate measures.

[Begin Ponce recording] Sources who have infiltrated the terrorist movement are predicting a new FMLN terrorist action. These sources also say that the FMLN is not capable of perpetrating an action similar to the one it carried out on 11 November. However, I can see [words indistinct], for example, the destruction of commercial establishments. They are not harming big businesses, but small- and medium-sized businesses. This is very dangerous, because they are contributing to unemployment, psychosis, fear, and insecurity among the people. They are using small groups of terrorists to carry out attacks on the outskirts of the city. [end recording]

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff supported the UN secretary general's participation in the resumption of the dialogue with the FMLN. Col. Ponce made these statements at the change of command ceremonies at the Cavalry Regiment. Colonel Carlos Rolando Herrarte turned the cavalry command over to Colonel Roberto Tejada Murcia, who was with the Manuel Jose Arce Battalion based in San Miguel.

The military chiefs later visited the Artillery Brigade based in San Juan Opico, where Col. Herrarte received the unit's command from Colonel Jose A Mendez, who will now be chief of the General Staff's Department Four.

Ponce Speaks Further on Group

PA1102223690 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 10 Feb 90 pp 4, 15

[Text] El Salvador is not experiencing a civil war, but attacks by a group of terrorists against citizens and the Armed Forces, Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chief of the Joint Staff, has said.

"It is widely known that while the Armed Forces are fulfilling their constitutional mission to defend the people, the communists from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front [FMLN-FDR] are trying to destroy them, to kill them, and to make poverty prevail among them," the military chief said.

Ponce said that we should not talk about two groups being at war, but of a government, which represents the nation, and rebel groups, which over the past few years have undertaken to destroy the country, with the support of international communism.

"The FMLN-FDR consists of criminals who should not be calling themselves guerrillas because they are actually terrorists who are seeking power through violent means. When they see that their plans are frustrated, they begin to destroy the national economy by seeking to generate poverty in the attempt to ignite a wave of protests against the legitimate government," he added.

Col. Ponce was responding to an international campaign promoted by the FMLN-FDR intended to portray the image abroad that there are two antagonistic forces—the Armed Forces and the FMLN.

The top military officer appealed for national unity to defeat terrorism.

Air Force Bombings of Civilian Areas Reported

Rebels Publicize Morazan Raid

PA1202012190 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Your close attention, please. We are just getting a report from our department, Morazan, saying that there has been an air raid and the homes of civilians have been damaged.

Your attention, please. A second bombing has been carried out in our country within the past few hours. It is

in Morazan Department, and homes have been damaged. The report says that for several hours, A-37 Dragonfly planes and UH-1M helicopters fired rockets and indiscriminately damaged the village of Los Ramos, Estancia Canton, Cacaopera Jurisdiction, causing substantial damage to the homes of the civilian population and endangering the lives of residents. Some of the homes that were seriously damaged were those of Fidel Argueta, Margarito Hernandez, Evelio Gonzalez, Eustacio Ramos, and Lorenzo Canales.

As a result of the shelling, the sugarcane field of Fidel Argueta caught fire. A woman, Donatila Portillo, 50, was wounded in the bombing and is in serious condition. Four cattle and several chicken were also killed.

This bombing represents a new action against the civilian population.

Church Reports Attack

PA1202030190 Paris AFP in Spanish 0145 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Feb (AFP)—Catholic Church sources reported that four children and one adult were killed and 14 people were wounded today during an Air Force bombing of a settlement of repatriates in northern El Salvador. Some of the wounded are in serious condition.

The bombing occurred in Las Piedras, a town located 85 km north of San Salvador, where a group of repatriates settled last year. These repatriates had fled the country's violence a decade ago and settled in Mesa Grande, Honduras.

According to the same sources, there was fighting between the Army and guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) near this community this morning, but there had been no actual armed actions in the town.

Chalatenango Bishop Monsignor Jose Eduardo Alas told AFP that the tragedy occurred when a rocket fired from a helicopter hit a house where children had been taken to protect them from the air raid.

A nun who was at the site of the incident said that the bombing was carried out by three fighter planes and three helicopters after the infantry had already been fighting near the town for an hour.

Msgr. Alas described the action as a "crime," but refused to say that it had been an intentional action by the Air Force.

The bishop said: "I saw crushed little bodies, bloody pieces of flesh... brains scattered all around, and skulls completely destroyed. It was horrible."

He added that "according to the testimony of the entire community, the tragedy was caused by the helicopters. You can see the riddled roofs; almost no roof escaped the attack. There was a lot of machine-gun fire," he said.

Asked if there had been any fighting in the community, the priest said: "There was a lot of activity in the morning," in nearby areas, but he did not say that to endanger the life of a civilian, especially as I have seen, the lives of children is really a crime, we cannot call this war," he emphasized. [sentence as received]

He noted that the military authorities had not given an explanation for what had happened. He added that an officer who was looking at the body of a dead soldier in Las Piedras said: "This is war, death, and destruction."

FMLN Protests Bombing

PA1202013390 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0038 GMT 12 Feb 90

["Official communique" issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, on 11 February; place not given]

[Text] Today, 11 February, at 0900, the Salvadoran Air Force began bombing and firing rockets at a settlement of repatriates in (Huancora), San Isidro Labrador Jurisdiction, Chalatenango Department, with two A-37 planes and four helicopter gunships, killing six persons, wounding three others, and destroying several homes. In view of these actions, the FMLN states:

1. We strongly condemn this cowardly attack, which was carried out purposefully, because the place is completely visible and identifiable as an area populated by repatriates.

2. This new crime destroys the vaunted false image of professionalism by the Salvadoran military and shows that the violation of human rights is a daily practice of the Army.

3. This action also shows the lack of will on the part of the Air Force to achieve a negotiated solution to the conflict. The persistence of these crimes against defenseless people confirms the need for us to remain armed and to use our military power to achieve a negotiated solution and protect human rights.

We call on all humanitarian and religious organizations to present themselves at the site to confirm the occurrence of these actions and to denounce them with full vigor.

'Unidentified Men' Attack Former Commander

PA1102225190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1843 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Armed Forces reported today that Colonel Carlos Mauricio Guzman, former national police director of El Salvador, last night was attacked by "unidentified men," but escaped unharmed.

An Army spokesman has reported that the attackers from a vehicle strafed a residence in northwest San Salvador that Guzman was visiting.

This past December, Guzman was replaced as national police director by Colonel Dionisio Ismael Machuca. Guzman will soon be traveling to Costa Rica, where he will serve as military attache.

The Armed Forces have attributed two similar attacks carried out last month on public officials to "urban commandos" of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

Archbishop on UN Participation in Dialogue

PA1002021690 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 5 Feb 90 p 7

[Text] San Salvador Archbishop Monsignor [Msgr.] Arturo Rivera y Damas has said that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar should participate actively in the dialogue between the Salvadoran Government and the guerrilla movement. The dialogue could be resumed in the upcoming days.

Contrary to statements made by Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, who said in the United States that only Salvadorans should participate in the dialogue process, Msgr. Rivera y Damas said that the participation of a UN delegate would strengthen the dialogue process. The prelate said that Perez de Cuellar cannot be a mere decoration, but must be an active participant in the talks.

During his usual Sunday homily, Rivera y Damas also referred to the abuses to which some Salvadoran Catholic Church members are being subjected by Armed Forces members. There is an attempt to link Catholic Church members with guerrilla activities, Rivera y Damas said.

During his sermoln, the prelate wondered how it is possible to deny that the Catholic Church is being persecuted when Church personnel and missionaries "are being treated in a disrespectful, offensive, and often violent manner at the various military checkpoints."

In addition, Msgr. Rivera y Damas said that the church is making efforts to evacuate 33 former Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] fighters who have occupied El Calvario Church for the past four months. The prelate said that these war-maimed FMLN members could leave the country over the next few days without specifying an exact date or the country to which they will be going.

Correction to Assembly Action on State of Siege

PA0902123390

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Legislative Assembly Prolongs State of Siege," published in the 9 February Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 12:

Column two, first paragraph, first sentence, make read: a 30-day prolongation of the state... (substituting word "prolongation" for "postponement" here and throughout item)

Guatemala

10 Students Arrested in Bus Fare Protests

PA1002011390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0018 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Feb (ACAN - EFE)—At least 10 students were arrested, a reporter was attacked, and four buses were partially destroyed during street disturbances involving more than 1,000 students in the Guatemalan capital today.

Journalist Nestor Hernandez, who works for PRENSA LIBRE, one of the newspapers with the largest circulation in Guatemala, suffered an injury to his mouth during the disturbances.

Police spokesman Guillermo Mollinedo, told ACAN - EFE that secondary school students stopped two buses in the center of Guatemala City and set them on fire this afternoon.

Riot police arrested at least 10 students who will be turned over to the juvenile courts, Mollinedo said.

The students were protesting a 100-percent increase in bus fares by the Guatemala City Municipality.

Approximately 100 members of the Mutual Support Group (GAM), primarily composed of peasants, staged another march today to protest the bus fare increase and the high cost of living.

Not only the students, but the people in general suffer as a result of these "acts of vandalism," because they need the bus service to travel to and from their homes, a police spokesman explained.

The students also burned the main door of a private computer school and threw rocks at business establishments.

The police spokesman said the riot squad is on the streets to maintain order and protect the buses, most of which have been removed from service by their owners.

Defense Minister on Guerrilla Activities

PA1002002890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0055 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 7 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo said today that the Guatemalan guerrillas act desperately to gain international attention in view of Eastern European rejection of Marxist totalitarian regimes.

"These actions also have to do with the reduction or elimination of Soviet bloc economic aid to Cuba, thus halting Cuban collaboration with Latin American subversive movements," he said.

At a news conference, the defense minister commented on the latest guerrilla actions and said that the guerrillas are planning attention-getting actions to hinder the democratic process.

The military leader said that the armed groups that operate in Guatemala have 1,005 men, and, unlike in the past, do not have the support of the people.

Gramajo said that the groups of "terrorist criminals" have modified their strategy of "prolonged people's war" to that of pure terrorism, removed from all military and political activities.

The defense minister reported that in subversive actions over the last few days, the guerrillas lost documents detailing sabotage and criminal plans they were to carry out soon in the capital.

He added that the Army is constantly on patrol throughout the country, mainly in areas where the guerrillas are trying to impose by force "their totalitarian objectives."

Gramajo announced an "unrelenting" struggle against the guerrillas and warned that the military task "will be carried out as a strictly military action."

General Gramajo said that rebel reports that indicated that the guerrillas inflicted upon the Army during the first six days of February 33 casualties in 15 attacks and 10 harassments were "false."

"The Armed Forces only suffered one casualty. There were three attacks and three harassments," he explained.

Gramajo stressed that Marxism-Leninism is out of date, except in the Caribbean and in Central America, but "time is against them and in two or three years they will feel the isolation of their sponsors, the Cubans," he said.

Nicaragua

Ortega Meets With U.S., Costa Rican Businessmen

PA1002170790 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 8 Feb 90 p 6

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado yesterday greeted a delegation of American businessmen who are in Nicaragua to take a closer look at the political, economic, and social situation of the country, and especially the current electoral process, with an eye toward possible investments once the Yankee government lifts the trade embargo.

This delegation of American and Costa Rican businessmen is made up of young financiers under 40 years of age who own or manage companies that must have a capital of $40 million for them to be included in the group.

This visit is part of a dialogue that started in 1985 when they invited President Ortega to lunch in New York. It was pursued at other levels in Costa Rica last year, and now here in Nicaragua.

They also met with Planning and Budget Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca, who spoke about Nicaragua's current political and economic situation.

For his part, President Ortega expressed to the businessmen the desire for the normalization of relations between the United States and Nicaragua, "since it was the Americans who closed the market, not the Nicaraguans," he said.

"We are willing to work with that market, but it should be understood that we are not going to change our economic program, because it has allowed us to reduce inflation without needing greater financial support. Last year's economic program is the same that will be applied in 1990," he said in closing.

At the end of the meeting, Rodolfo Castro, representative in Costa Rica of the Young Businessmen's Organization, told Commander Ortega: "This has been a satisfactory meeting for us. It is important that the people see with their own eyes what is happening here, for prosperity is found in peace and it is with these elements that governments receive the support of the people," he said.

Spanish Minister Mediates at Quayle's 'Request'

PA0902162390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1433 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 9 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—A Sandinist source told ACAN-EFE today that Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez had acted as mediator with the Managua government to obtain permission for an official mission of U.S. Congressmen to enter Nicaragua as observers to the 25 February elections.

The Spanish diplomat met with Sandinist Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge in Tegucigalpa (Honduras) during the swearing-in ceremony of President Rafael Leonardo Callejas on 26 January, to request permission for a group of U.S. congressional observers to enter the country.

The Nicaraguan minister turned down this "good deed action," as it was described by the Sandinist source, but proposed to Fernandez Ordonez that this mission come along instead as part of the already established observer groups, such as those from the OAS, the United Nations, and the Carter Center.

The Spanish minister interceded with the Nicaraguan Government at the request of U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle.

President Daniel Ortega has repeatedly said he will not allow an official U.S. mission into the country until the funds earmarked by the U.S. Congress for the "contras" stop being diverted to the CIAV (International Commission of Support and Verification), destined to demobilize the guerrillas. [sentence as published]

"It would be an attack against our national dignity to allow an official delegation to come here from a country (the United States) that has encouraged a war against Nicaragua, and since 1985, has had us under a cruel blockade," the source that wished to remain anonymous said.

Former President Jimmy Carter said in Managua on 28 January that the Sandinist government had granted permission for 12 U.S. legislators to enter the country and observe the 25 February elections as part of the mission over which Carter presides.

Carter said he regretted that Daniel Ortega's government would not allow the entry of a delegation of U.S. congressional observers, but added that Nicaragua "has the sovereign right" to reject U.S. official envoys.

1,190 Political Prisoners Released 9 Feb

PA0902192390 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1833 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 9 Feb (DPA)—Some 1,190 Nicaraguan political prisoners were released today in accordance with the amnesty law which was submitted by President Daniel Ortega to the parliament and approved two days ago. Their release helps to improve the climate for the upcoming 25 February elections.

The released prisoners were turned over to Red Cross officials to be transferred to their places of origin. Some 39 former Somozist guardsmen, who had been in prison since 1979, the year the Anastasio Somoza regime was overthrown, were released.

The rest of those benefiting from the amnesty were members of contra groups who have attempted to overthrow the Sandinist Government for the past nine years.

It was learned that there are still some persons in prison who belonged to the Nicaraguan Armed Forces and who, according to the charges, were CIA agents.

D'Escoto on Contras; Tinoco on Ties With U.S.

PA1002141690 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Nicaragua has asked UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to have the UN Observer Group in Central America and the International Commission of Support and Verification immediately demobilize the contras.

In a letter written by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, which was distributed yesterday at the UN Headquarters, he mentions a series of aggressions he says were directed from abroad. He adds that the aggressor military units have their main operative and logistics bases in Honduras, and that they are equipped with modern and powerful communications equipment provided by the U.S. Government. The foreign minister underscored in the letter that the aggressions he mentioned prove once again that the demobilization process should be carried out immediately.

Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco has said that following the Sandinist National Liberation Front victory in the 25 February elections Nicaragua will come to terms with the U.S. Government because the key issue for the United States is the war, which has ended with the counterrevolutionaries' defeat.

The Nicaraguan diplomat said that the Sandinist Front is in a position to reach an agreement with the United States, especially since the United States is not interested in prolonging the Central American crisis. Therefore, he added, we are going to make a jump from war to peace.

Borge Touts FSLN as Party To Overcome Crisis

PA0902154990 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 7 Feb 90 pp 3, 4

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) will win the 25 February elections by an overwhelming margin. This will place it in the best position so the U.S. Government will not only recognize the results, but will also initiate the normalization of relations with Nicaragua.

Speaking before 600 party supporters in Managua, Commander Tomas Borge stated last night that the FSLN is the only party that can guarantee peace and consequently undertake the material reconstruction needed to overcome the country's economic crisis.

National independence is a basic condition for economic development, the Sandinist leader said. He noted that in peacetime part of the resources will be channeled for defense, for social programs, and for the productive sector.

The nature of the Patriotic Military Service will thus change because the youths will not have to risk their lives in wartime actions, but can dedicate themselves primarily to improving their human, technical, and professional training. Of course, in the event of possible threats, they will still go out to defend the nation.

Tomas spoke with the vast moral authority given him by his experience. He told the party militants that a Sandinist victory is certain and that if there is anything debatable it is whether the percentage of votes will be 65 percent, 70 percent, or more.

He said that UNO [National Opposition Union] is incapable of governing Nicaragua for several reasons. Among such reasons is that it does not guarantee national independence, but rather relations of subjection to the United States. For example, Borge said UNO will

not dare to contradict the large consortiums and will sacrifice the country to pay the foreign debt.

He said that traditionally the U.S. Government has not been anyone's friend, but rather has maintained relations of exploitation. As the most recent case of this, he cited the government of Endara, the president imposed in Panama by the U.S. military, who is waiting for the shower of dollars to arrive.

UNO will not improve relations with the United States, but rather will serve to sell the fatherland. It cannot resolve the economic crisis, because its solutions are based on obtaining huge U.S. financing, which will never arrive. Furthermore, it will impose severe economic adjustments, which, in turn, will create unemployment for tens of thousands and will result in cuts in health and education.

It will use the scant resources to favor the wealthy, because, Tomas recalled, UNO represents the interests of the oligarchy. Also, the foreign aid that would arrive would not be used for the welfare of the people, but would mostly wind up in the pockets of UNO leaders, as is usually the case with traditional politicians.

If they are fighting among themselves now for the few dollars being sent by the United States, what would happen if they were in the government and had access to some international financing? Corruption would spread in a hypothetical UNO administration, he noted.

This electoral coalition cannot govern because there have been deep transformations in Nicaragua that it would try to reverse, causing serious social consequences.

For example, with the existing Revolutionary Armed Forces—EPS [Sandinist People's Army] and the MINT [Interior Ministry]—how can the officers obey harebrained orders imparted by those who are appointed ministers of defense and the interior?

Since these structures are revolutionary, UNO will attempt to destroy them, causing chaos in Nicaragua. This would be a country without a government. Therefore, Tomas said, an UNO victory will neither be convenient for the United States nor for the very few supporters of that electoral alliance.

He mentioned the close ties that exist among UNO, contras, and the former Somozist guardsmen, some of whom are candidates for deputies and councilmen. A possible victory of UNO would be tantamount to a return of the Somozist guards, causing a resumption of the struggle against Somozism.

Borge reiterated his famous statement: "We are the most and the best," and noted that even the White House is convinced the Sandinists have victory in their hands.

Furthermore, the margin of victory is foreseeably so great and the electoral process so unquestionable that Bush's government has to reshape its policy toward Nicaragua.

Another decisive factor is that the contras are wiped out and, even if they were reactivated, they could never again represent the danger that they posed in previous years.

Also, the conditions for a military adventure against Nicaragua do not exist. It must be considered that the changes in East Europe will have an impact on the United States to a greater or lesser degree.

The only survivor of the FSLN founders does not rule out the possibility that the United States and the Soviet Union will eliminate the existing nuclear weapons, stop producing others, and invest part of the resources designated for these in Latin America. The United States alone could free some $20 billion in this manner.

The principal auditorium of the Olof Palme Convention Center, where the meeting was held, was virtually the scene of an anticipated celebration of a Sandinist electoral victory.

Commander Nunez Comments on UNO's Problems

PA1002153390 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 8 Feb 90 p 24

[Text] Nicaraguan Commander Carlos Nunez has said that the outcries of the UNO [National Opposition Union] over "an election fraud have lost importance, not only among U.S. liberals and Democrats, but also in the U.S. media, which are becoming convinced that the UNO is not a real option."

Nunez, the most important FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] candidate to an assembly post, made these statements while commenting on the setback the UNO is experiencing in some very prestigious U.S. media.

Nunez, who also talked about the public confrontation between Violeta Barrios' campaign chief, Antonio Lacayo, and Jaime Bonilla, who is on Virgilio Godoy's team, said: "UNO is not a real option. It will not defeat the FSLN in the elections. Also, a coalition is not the formula to end the war."

Nunez wondered: What will the UNO candidates do in the next few days? Will they attempt to act with more maturity, or will Godoy continue with his extremist and authoritarian behavior, as he did during the 1984 elections when he promoted abstention among the PLI [Independent Liberal Party] members?

Nunez said: "In my opinion, neither Bonilla, who is running for an assembly post, nor Lacayo, who is not running for anything, has affected the election process by their behavior (they got into a fight in Posoltega).

Nunez added that the enemies of the revolution want to harm the election process to then claim "that there was a fraud here, that the elections were not good, and that the only way to establish democracy in Nicaragua is the war."

Basing his statements on the actions promoted by the United States in Panama, Nunez did not rule out the possibility that in Nicaragua they might try to promote disturbances "sponsored by politicians who refuse to accept their defeat."

U.S. Diplomat Reportedly Advising UNO Leaders

PA1002165890 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Feb 90 p 11

[Report by T. Rothschuh]

[Text] Juigalpa—Gerald McCulloch, the political counselor at the U.S. Embassy who has been appointed by the Bush administration to advise the UNO [National Opposition Union] coalition in Region Five, held another of his usual closed door meetings in the residence of UNO coordinator Delvis Montiel on 8 February.

The Yankee met for the second consecutive time in 15 days with the already known allies of the U.S. Administration, who are hiding behind Yankee advice in view of their evident defeat in the upcoming elections. This defeat was shown by the huge support the people of Chontales expressed for the Sandinist National Liberation Front ticket on 7 February.

It has been learned in UNO circles that the huge rally has caused much desperation.

UNO Members Allegedly Attack FSLN Members

PA1002191290 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1215 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] council candidates Fancundo Mateu, Leonel Herrera, and Nazario Ubeda for San Rafael Municipality in Jinotega have been kidnapped by counterrevolutionary groups, which, along with UNO [National Opposition Union] activists, have been threatening peasants in El Jicaro and Nueva Segovia with death as a means of getting them to vote for the right-wing UNO. The FSLN's regional committee has reported this new action by the UNO and the contras to the Regional Electoral Council and to the international observers, with the added information that UNO members have held direct talks with contra leader Tomas Laguna Orozco.

Cynthia Torres, a UNO directorate member in (?Carabobo), is under arrest at the city police station for physically attacking Mayor Carlos Lopez just because he greeted the people sitting in a restaurant. Residents say that UNO activists have reached the point of shamelessly attacking FSLN members without any justification whatsoever, and in a cowardly and vulgar manner, thereby showing their desperation over the UNO's imminent defeat in the 25 February elections.

The Defense Ministry has announced that an FSLN electoral activist was killed and others were wounded when counterrevolutionary forces in the northern part of Jinotega ambushed their vehicle. The identity of the person killed has not yet been disclosed.

The Defense Ministry has also announced that contra groups, led by an individual nicknamed Cascabel, are offering peasants 1 million cordobas in exchange for the civic booklets issued by the Supreme Electoral Council for the purpose of voting on 25 February.

UNO Activists Reportedly Involved in Violence

PA0902190690 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] William Perez Garcia and Darwin Jara Cruz, activists of the rightist group UNO [National Opposition Union], have attacked FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] member Fernando Urbina in San Rafael del Sur. Urbina was injured on his upper lip and right cheekbone, and he said that this incident demonstrates the aggressiveness and cowardice of the contras' civilian wing.

Meanwhile, the Sandinist police in Sebaco have reported that UNO activists stoned participants in a Sandinist demonstration and injured Irma Davila Lazo, mayor of Sebaco, in her left eye. Another participant received blows to his eyes and upper limbs. The police report says that UNO members Eduardo Arauz, Domingo Rayo, Juan Carlos and Leonardo Gutierrez Macias, Ricardo Reyes, and Luis Freddy Arauz were arrested and will be sent to court for trial.

In another development, it has been reported that 36 citizens who had been included in the UNO's list of candidates to councilmen have resigned and expressed disagreement with the UNO's political line. The resignations were submitted to the Regional Electoral Council of Granada, in the Fourth Region. Many of those resigning said they do not want to find themselves linked in any way to acts of vandalism, much less to the counterrevolutionaries' activities against the people.

Discussion on Election Features UNO's Ferrey

PA1102034390

[Editorial Report] Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 6 February broadcasts a one-hour program featuring a discussion with Azucena Ferrey, current National Opposition Union [UNO) and Party of National Confidence candidate to an assembly post for Region Six and former leader of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN].

The program opens with statements by Ferrey who thanks Radio Corporacion for giving her the opportunity to talk to the Nicaraguan people. Ferrey identifies herself

and the station announcer then invites all radio listeners to call in to ask their questions of Ferrey.

Subsequently, the station announcer asks Ferrey for her opinion about the development of the election process. Ferrey answers that the election process is "definitely not a normal one" because "the Sandinist regime had decided to hold elections thinking that the population would not accept the challenge." Ferrey adds that "the various mass rallies and demonstrations are helping Nicaraguans to rid themselves of their fear. We are witnessing a gradual increase in the people's participation in the campaign rallies." Ferrey goes on to point out that the Sandinist Front has been conducting a "propaganda campaign abroad" through international public opinion polls and other means to try to maintain the "belief" that the "Sandinists are the majority in this country."

To the question of whether UNO will be able to rule the country with a Sandinist opposition, Ferrey answers that UNO "will know how to listen to the opposition's demands." Ferrey says that UNO is capable of working for a "democratic and pluralist" government. Ferrey then adds: "I believe it will be very difficult at the beginning, but thank God we are people who succeeded in understanding and taking control of our situation."

Later, a caller asks Ferrey to explain why the Social Christian Party [PSC] "attacks" UNO instead of "attacking" the Sandinist Front. Ferrey answers that people have lost perspective in Nicaragua and that many have not listened to the demands of the population, who "are crying out for unity." Ferrey adds that people should not "pay attention" to the PSC's attacks on UNO, because "whether we like it or not, there is an increasingly stronger polarization here in Nicaragua—the confrontation is between UNO and the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front]."

The next caller asks Ferrey what UNO plans to do with Sandinists such as the "Black Berets" or the "State Security members" who have "harmed" the Nicaraguan population. Azucena Ferrey answers that the Nicaraguan people are "very generous" and that she believes Nicaragua to be a country that "cannot take any more revenge."

In response to a question by a person identifying himself as a Nicaraguan peasant, Ferrey states that people should not be frightened by the FSLN propaganda, which includes rumors that UNO will take away land that has been given to peasants.

Responding to a question as to what will happen to the people who have been "kidnapped and taken to the camps in Yamales, Honduras," after UNO wins, Ferrey says: "The families of many of the people who joined the RN have stated that their relatives were kidnapped by the contras to justify their absence and avoid the Sandinist regime's repression." Ferrey adds that if there is evidence that people have in fact been abducted, "under an UNO government, all Nicaraguans who are abroad will have every right to return to their homeland."

The discussion ends with Ferrey telling Nicaraguans to ask the FSLN that if it plans to hold "honest" elections, "why does it reject a public vote-count on election day? Why does it reject the presence of party poll representatives during the vote-counting process? Why does the FSLN refuses to have party poll representatives accompanying those who will take the ballot boxes to the CSE facilities?"

Citizens Urged Not To Forget Somozist Past

PA1102225990 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 Feb 90 p 3

[Article by Carlos F. Chamorro: "What We Must Not Forget"]

[Text] The release of 1,900 prisoners, including counterrevolutionaries and former GN [National Guard] members, who were favored by a pardon yesterday, has been interpreted by the population—and in many cases grudgingly—as a necessary act of reconciliation that will contribute toward accelerating the end of the war.

The Nicaraguan people have again been subjected to a formidable test. While in Western Europe, courts continue to conduct trials against war criminals of Nazi Germany (a war that ended 45 years ago), here, where the destruction caused by Somozism and the wounds opened by the aggression are still fresh—and will probably never heal for some Nicaraguan families—some henchmen were released and sent to the streets yesterday morning.

Can anyone ask more generosity, tolerance, and political realism of these people who are desperate to attain peace?

The "let us start afresh" attitude that some groups demand is absolutely unacceptable. The difference between the pardon that has been granted, which pardons the sentence, but does not erase the crime, and the amnesty requested by the group that demands a historic "let us forget about it" attitude, is more a political than a legal amnesty.

No country can progress if it insists on erasing the scars of its past. It is even worse if that erasing entails acquitting those who led the country into dictatorship, social oppression, and foreign aggression.

In our case, the pardon granted to former GN members and counterrevolutionaries is not at all the same as granting a historic amnesty that will cloud the raison d'etre of all past, current, and future people's struggles.

We are not advocating sterile revenge. On the contrary, the nation's responsible collective memory cannot accept a compromise when the foundations of the awareness of the new generations, who will be in charge of the country's future, are at stake.

Even if we were living in times of peace, to forget the Somozist past and its subordination to the United States, which nourished the war throughout these years, would be the same as opening the way for this age-old, historic problem to appear again.

What Nicaraguans will learn from these elections is one thing—in the sense of learning to be tolerant of other people's ideas, despite how different they may be from ours—it is something very different to allow the incubation of the seed of destruction and social instability.

The requiem for the Somozist guard, which took place yesterday with the release of its most well-known members, cannot lead us to forget the how, where, and why of the actions of the GN, or that repressive organizations of Somozist capitalism do appear. The task of maintaining our collective memory intact falls not only upon historians, it is an overall part of our education system and of the work of those who forge our political culture.

If we ignore that responsibility, the pardon will go down in history as a wise and bold measure adopted by a government determined to attain peace for its people, but also as a measure unable to guarantee stable and lasting coexistence, unless we truly decide to bury our past.

Panama

Decree Creates Public Force, Defense Council

PA1102041990 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0318 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Panama City, 10 Feb (DPA)—The Panamanian Government today repealed Law 20, which created the defunct Panama Defense Forces that were led by overthrown General Manuel Antonio Noriega, and enacted a new law that creates the new Public Force, the supreme commander of which is the president of the Republic.

The Public Force will consist of the National Police, the National Air Service, and the National Maritime Service, with separate commands and echelons that fall under the executive branch.

Meanwhile, the penitentiary system, the Judicial Technical Police, which was the former National Department of Investigations (DENI), and the National Directorate of Land Traffic and Transportation are part of the Government and Justice Ministry of Panama.

In the same order, the president of the Republic is empowered to create special units to safeguard the borders of the country and to protect the canal.

The Cabinet decree also includes the creation of the Council of Public Security and National Defense as an advisory group of the president, to be comprised of the ministries of Government and Justice, Foreign Affairs, and Planning and Economic Policy.

In another aspect, the government of President Guillermo Endara also issued a decree establishing an organization in the office of the General Comptroller charged with the recovery of funds or public assets acquired illegally by public officials or third parties.

Also, measures were adopted to regulate national maritime affairs through regional offices, which will handle Merchant Marine matters formerly carried out by the consuls.

Cabinet Decrees Approved on Patrimony, Shipping

PA1102024890 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 0005 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Report by Alvaro Alvarado from the Secretariat of Press and Propaganda of the Presidency of the Republic in Panama City on 11 February—live]

[Text] Cabinet Decree No. 36 creates the Directorate of Patrimonial Responsibility [Direccion de Responsabilidad Patrimonial] in the office of the National Comptroller of the Republic and establishes its guidelines. Today, 10 February 1990, the Cabinet Council, whereas:

The defense of the legitimate interests of the Republic requires effective order to achieve that end. The existence of justice and public administration, and to tidy up the country in general, particularly, are aspirations and demands of the Panamanian people. These are binding goals for the country's leaders that the national government must seek to attain. The recent findings on the handling of funds and public property, which are of concern, and which were presented to the citizens by the office of the National Comptroller, demand the immediate adoption of legal, effective, and efficient instruments. This will allow expediting the necessary proceedings so that, without undermining the right of defense of the citizens affected, the patrimonial responsibility can be determined, if warranted, of all those who improperly benefited or permitted third parties to benefit from the undue disposition of funds, property, or public assets, to the detriment of the state patrimony;

Decrees: Article 1. The Directorate of Patrimonial Responsibility is created in the office of the National Comptroller. This directorate will have jurisdiction throughout all national territory. Three magistrates will be in charge of the directorate. The magistrate elected by the majority vote of the magistrates in the directorate will head the directorate and will also have the assistance of magistrates. Only persons duly appointed to the directorate can be designated to these posts.

Since 0900 this morning we are here in the vicinity of the Presidency of the Republic. Economic topics have been debated by the Cabinet Council.

Concerning Cabinet Decree No. 33, which creates regional offices to handle matters that deal with the National Merchant Marine, we spoke with Guillermo Marquez, director of the General Consular and Ships

Directorate, who was present at the Cabinet Council meeting. This is what he said for RPC Radio:

[Begin Marquez recording] This morning, the State Council considered and finally adopted a draft cabinet decree, which is now law, establishing consular and shipping offices in different parts of the world to handle the flagging of ships, in such a manner that it will be these regional offices and not the consuls who will handle the necessary arrangements pertaining to the licensing of ships in the Panamanian register. [end recording]

Dear listeners, we will soon be giving you more information. At this moment the state ministers are leaving the Presidency. Thank you for RPC Radio.

Minister Suggests Revision of Neutrality Treaty

PA0902160190 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Feb 90 p 1

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares has said the Panama Canal Neutrality Treaty "should be revised," because neutrality, as agreed upon in that treaty, is not advantageous to Panama.

"I do not hesitate to say that the Neutrality Treaty should be revised, because, unfortunately, the neutralization that was agreed upon there is not favorable to the Panamanian nation," Linares said.

Linares made the statement in response to a reporter who had asked his opinion on statements made by a U.S. official to the effect that, in view of the dismantling of the Defense Forces, the United States should reassess its position on security where Panama is concerned, particularly for the period after the Americans leave Panama in the year 2000.

Linares said the treaty that will be in effect after the year 2000 is the Neutrality Treaty, which should be revised.

He explained that "one must not lose sight of the fact that the DeConcini reservation, which the U.S. Senate introduced into the treaty, grants the United States a broad right to intervene in our affairs."

"That reservation gives the United States the right to interfere in our affairs in the event the canal is closed or its operations are interrupted, and it makes no distinction as to whether the closure in question is caused by Panama or by third states," Linares said.

The foreign minister said that if something is to be reassessed, it should be the Neutrality Treaty, which the opposition that is now in power denounced as a treaty "that promotes a unilateral U.S. intervention in Panama."

At the time, the opposition opposed the signing of the Torrijos-Carter and Neutrality Treaties "because they jeopardized the country's sovereignty." During the past political campaign, current Vice President Guillermo Ford repeatedly expressed his disagreement with the Neutrality Treaty.

Linares said the treaty is not advantageous to the Panamanian nation "because it took into account other factors, in addition to the actual neutralization of the Panama Canal."

Asked his opinion of the idea of creating a multinational force to guard the canal in the year 2000, when the canal reverts to Panama, Linares said "it would be worthwhile to consider the matter."

In view of the disintegration of the Panamanian armed forces as a result of the U.S. invasion, some local sectors have proposed the establishment of a multinational force to guard the canal after the year 2000.

The foreign minister declined to comment on recent statements by President Guillermo Endara in Costa Rica to the effect that the best way to defend the canal is to ensure "its neutrality," because it is militarily indefensible.

"If the canal is used by all the world's countries in equal conditions, as the neutrality treaty requires, this would ensure that no power would want to destroy that waterway," Endara said at the time.

Ministry's Economic Recommendations Disclosed

PA1102021990 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 5 Feb 90 pp 1, A-2

[Report by James Aparicio—all quotation marks as published]

[Text] A document drafted by the Planning and Economic Policy Ministry (MIPPE), termed "Priorities for Reconstructing the National Economy," identified unemployment as the first problem the new government must face, because of its "great potential for instability."

"The main problem that we must face, which is has to do not just with the economy, but which is a social and political problem, too, is unemployment...which we calculate exceeeds 20 percent of the country's full labor force and exceeds 25 percent in the metropolitan area," the document drafted on 24 December 1989 disclosed.

According to MIPPE advisers, priorities should be established such as: Emergency employment programs, emergency support to production sectors, reestablishment of financial assistance, and preparation of a modest budget for 1990.

The document indicates that the "most efficacious way to resolve the national economic crisis is to facilitate production reactivation quickly, taking maximum advantage of market forces and "reducing the hindering state interference."

"It is fundamentally important not to fall for the illusion that most surely local and foreign agencies' representatives would recommend reactivating the economy through a program of massive investment," warns the MIPPE, and points out that to reactivate the housing industry, the unsold units must first be sold, and it must be taken into account that the manufacturing sector and other productive activities "have an installed excess capacity."

Eliminating "marketing obstacles," planning state-sponsored activities for the rest of the year, and installing a high-level commission to plan strategies for the 1990's is also recommended.

To generate jobs, which would be reinforced by the promised U.S. and EEC economic aid, the MIPPE suggests creating programs that generate provisional jobs, "to achieve a meaningful short-term effect" on the 150,000 unemployed.

The MIPPE document suggests that for the next two years an emergency social Fund, financed by donations from nongovernmental organizations, for "low-qualified" community project jobs, and an emergency employment plan consisting of "flexibile minimum-wage rules, workers' social benefits and indemnities when terminating employment, and job stability."

The MIPPE advisers feel that to raise the production sectors affected by the past two years of crisis, made worse by the 20-21 December looting, there is the need for "financing with enough time for businesses to build up their working capital," also some special support "by way of an indemnity to cover a portion of the proven losses."

On the subject of loans that production sectors need, these will be "mainly obtained from multilateral lending institutions and export banks or foreign aid institutions in industrialized countries."

The National Bank would distribute the funds, as a discount teller, not as a lender" and banks with general operating licenses "could discount the loans they make, which meet the defined criteria, at their own risk."

Because of the "sensitivity" of verifying the amounts of indemnity, the MIPPE advisers believe this could be resolved by:

1. "The internal accounts of the businesses and the balances certified by outside auditors to determine the historic and current inventory levels and other assets;

2. Filed income tax returns, including the balances;

3. Custom declarations on imported merchandise;

4. Certificates issued by banks as to current credit levels to finance inventory;

5. Certificates issued by insurance companies on the inventory value and other insured assets;

6. In the case of small businesses that may meet with difficulties complying with the above requirements, certification that goods have been sold, that they comply with the requirements, and that can verify the sales by their accountancy records and sales documents could be used."

Experts feel that the financial system could recover, so that it may serve everyday activities as well as investments, with the implementation of a plan the includes legal guidelines that expedite the voluntary stabilization of frozen liabilities, deregulation of interbanking transactions of deposits, and the obligation to accept CEDIS [Investment Certificate Bonds].

The proposal also includes "optional" releasing of frozen deposits, promptly implementing the stock market, obtaining resources so that the banks can "deduct financing at a medium term," and resolving the crisis at the National Bank, National Savings Bank, Agricultural Development Bank, and National Mortgage Bank.

On the matter of the 1990 general budget, which must be approved by the legislature, the proposal states that "it must generate" its own surplus in its checking account and show discipline on its spending on salaries and other consumption expenditures." The MIPPE advisers also recommended eliminating so-called "government obstacles" that must be "dismantled or eliminated," something that includes monopolies in transportation concessions, streamlining the entry of tourists, eliminating exclusive transportation services from the Colon Free Zone, privatizing all port operations, promoting the port center, and amending the laws on free and industrial zones, which include "flexible" labor laws to promote the activities of assembly plants.

Other Actions Deemed as Key for 1990

a. Finding and justifying the foreign aid needed for the rest of the year.

b. Restructuring the state's handling of the economy.

c. Public sector employment practices.

d. Privatization of some state enterprises.

e. Handling the foreign debt.

The economists feel that national "consensus" is needed to implement many plans because Panamanians lost "their sense of direction as a nation, and a modicum of consensus does not exist as to the kind of nation we want to be."

University Rector Says Classes To Resume 1 Mar

PA0902143990 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Feb 90 p 1

[Report by Nubia Aparicio S.]

[Text] Abdiel Adames, rector of the University of Panama, said on 5 February that the second academic semester of 1989 is scheduled to begin on 1 March 1990.

Adames made these remarks in an impromptu news conference held at the Palace of the Herons after he paid a visit to President Endara.

Regarding the possibility of closing some university departments and regional branches, Adames said that "this is absolutely false," and he "categorically" denied "that any branch of the University of Panama will be closed."

Adames said the president promised to devote the proper attention to the budget needed by the university, because the university had not been included in the national budget since 1988. Thus, the university had been forced to operate with the funding generated by the institution.

Adames stated that during the meeting with the president they discussed the role of the university, its responsibilities as set forth by the Constitution and the law, and its willingness to contribute to the country's development and reconstruction process.

When asked about how the invasion had affected the operation of the University of Panama, the rector said the fact that the university grounds were occupied by the U.S. Army South logically hindered university operations.

Speaking on the possibility that there are paramilitary elements in the university, Adames guaranteed that "we were the only institution that did not have Dignity Battalions or Codepadi [Committees for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity]," but he added that "individuals on their own may possibly have belonged to these groups and they must be identified and denounced to the corresponding authorities."

Adames was accompanied to the presidency by faculty members Octavio Sousa, deputy rector of research and the graduate school, and Justo Medrano, deputy academic rector.

Argentina

Talks With UK on Falklands Continue in Madrid

First Day Ends in 'Total Silence'

LD0902071290 Madrid in Spanish to Europe 2030 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] The first day of the meeting between Argentine and British military experts and specialists in Madrid today has ended with total silence. The two delegations met for only two hours. The aim of this meeting, which will continue tomorrow, is to create a climate of mutual confidence and to smooth the way, on military matters, for the second round of bilateral talks. This round will be held 14-15 February, also in Madrid.

UK Official Sees End to Exclusion Zone

PY0902214890 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2100 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Feb (NA)—According to current international news agency reports, British Deputy Foreign Minister Timothy Sainsbury today stressed that the British Government "is willing to lift the exclusion zone" around the Malvinas Islands. Sainsbury made this statement in London just after returning from his trip to the Malvinas, while Argentine and British delegates concluded technical-military negotiations in Madrid tonight.

After remarking that his country "is willing" to lift the exclusion zone around the Malvinas that was imposed in 1982, he stressed that the zone "is not sacred" and that "agreements that would guarantee the security of the islands and would be accepted internationally can be reached."

The lifting of the 150-mile exclusion zone was requested by Argentina as a "sign of confidence" by the British Government. If it does occur it will help greatly in the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Argentine request is on the agenda of the Argentine-British dialogue that began yesterday in Madrid, and it was on this topic that the British deputy foreign minister said today that there is a "possibility that Great Britain will reach an alternative agreement regarding the archipelago's security zone."

Communique Released

PY0902231390 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2221 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Feb (TELAM)—The "Argentine-British working group that is discussing measures to create confidence and prevent incidents in the military sphere" has prepared a report in Madrid that will be handed to the two governments in anticipation of the meeting between representatives of our country and Great Britain that will take place 14-15 February in Spain.

After the two-day meeting in Madrid, which concluded today, a joint Argentine-British joint communique was released. The communique states:

"In accordance with what had been agreed to in the joint document released in Madrid on 19 October 1989, especially under the sovereignty formula contained in Paragraph Two, and as it was agreed during the December 1989 meeting in Montevideo, the 'Argentine-British working group that is discussing measures to create confidence and prevent incidents in the military sphere' met in Madrid on 8-9 February 1990."

"The working group considered proposals on measures to promote confidence that were submitted by the two parties and it prepared a report for the two governments."

"The talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. The working group hopes that its report (?will be a positive contribution to the meeting) between the representatives of the two governments that will be held in Madrid on 14-15 February."

"The two delegations expressed their gratitude to the Spanish Government for its hospitality."

The joint communique was released tonight by the Foreign Ministry press office.

Menem on Exclusion Zone

PY1102210890 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1145 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 February (NA)—President Carlos Menem today announced that "an agreement may be ready for the lifting of the exclusion zone around the Malvinas Islands," and that this would "establish the conditions" for the resumption of diplomatic relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom.

Menem told Radio Mitre that Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo will hold a news conference tomorrow to discuss the Argentine-British talks in Madrid.

Menem denied there had been discussions to modify the national defense law, contradicting something he said yesterday.

Yesterday at the end of a barbecue luncheon at the Army Veterinary and Remount Directorate, Menem said that the government is considering amending the Defense Law to allow the Armed Forces to intervene in the repression of internal conflicts. He added, however, that the issue depends on Congress and not on the executive branch.

Menem said that Congress is ready to discuss amendments to the law regulating the Armed Forces intervention in internal conflicts. This law was approved during Raul Alfonsin's administration.

Menem said the issue "belongs in Congress; either we do this well, in an orderly manner, and correctly, or we do not do it."

Menem made these remarks at the end of a luncheon with high-ranking military commanders. He said "the military exclusion zone will very probably be lifted." Menem added that it is also very possible "although not certain, that we will be ready to resume diplomatic relations with the United Kingdom on the 14th."

Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo was present during the barbecue at the Army Veterinary and Remount Directorate. In referring to Cavallo's recent European trip, Menem said that Cavallo "will hold a news conference tomorrow to discuss the results."

Menem stressed: "Argentina has an excellent image in the eyes of the governments that the foreign minister visited." Menem said these include the governments of "Italy, France, and other countries."

Menem also said that changes to the military justice code—which presently accepts the jurisdiction of civilian courts when a decision is appealed—"must be discussed and agreed on."

The president added that the government "is working in a social, political, and economic pact." Referring to a recent document issued by the main opposition party [the Radical Civic Union], Menem said: "We will continue talking with the Radicals despite the fact that some of their comments are out of context and out of place."

Menem stressed that "the Argentine people should understand the somber and dramatic situation of the country when we took power."

He recalled that "no Argentine president has finished his term" since 1955 and said: "All this accumulated, but we are determined to fulfill our mandate with positive action and courageous decisions to change the course of Argentine history." Menem added that he thinks the economic and social situation now "is more positive" and added that "calm has returned after the latest thunderstorms."

Menem said calm will continue in the next few days "following the stability in the markets over the past few days."

Defense Minister on 'Aggressive' Weapons Sales

PY0902203190 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 9 Feb 90 p 11

[Text] (DYN)—Defence Minister Humberto Romero yesterday said Argentina will pursue an "aggressive and non-restrictive policy" in connection with the sale of weapons to foreign countries, "except for those restrictions the Foreign Ministry will determine on strict national interest grounds."

In an interview with Rosario's newspaper LA CAPITAL, Romero insisted that the rocket-vector Condor II has been built for peaceful purposes.

The official and his secretaries also analyzed the results of the different talks held last week with the Army, Navy, and Air Force Chiefs-of-Staff and noticed the forces had "urgent need" of new equipment.

For his part, President Carlos Menem sent yesterday a message to the Disarmament Conference currently being held at Geneva where he called for "the responsibility of all states to promote and strengthen the detente atmosphere and the disarmament talks."

The message was read during the conference's plenary session by the Argentine permanent representative at the Conference.

Cavallo Queried on Economy, European Investment

PY1002000790 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Feb (TELAM-DPA)—In an interview with the German news agency DPA, Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has said in Bonn that German investments in Argentina "will increase when the fiscal and monetary balance is regained and when legal measures to ensure confidence in the market are implemented."

During the interview, DPA says in a Bonn-datelined report, the Argentine minister, who today traveled by plane to Rome on the final leg of his European working tour, said that "the Argentine Government is not concerned about a possible increase in the flow of investment in East European countries."

The DPA report points out that Argentina is negotiating with West Germany on an agreement on the protection of investments that will be similar to those signed with Spain and Italy and to those that Argentina will also sign with France, Switzerland, and Japan.

DPA states that Cavallo pointed out to the FRG Government that President Carlos Menem "is persisting and will persist in the implementation of economic reforms aimed at ordering and controlling the public sector and deregulating all markets for private investment."

"We will also persist in our policy of integration into the world economy," Cavallo said. The Argentine foreign minister added that "after the reforms, German enterprises will find it profitable to invest in Argentina." He said: "FRG enterprises have not made substantial

investments recently for the same reason that the Argentines themselves are not investing much." Price instability "has made it very difficult to make economic projections in our country," Cavallo added.

Following his talks with high-ranking ministry officials and FRG congressmen, Cavallo pointed out that he does not believe in a possible diversion of funds from West Europe to East Europe. "The world economy tends to become global [globalizarse] and it will offer opportunities to the active participant countries," he noted.

Cavallo added: "The European capitals will not be restricted by the competition of East European countries. If there is only a little investment in our country, it is due much more to the instability of our own economy."

"A persistent fiscal imbalance is the reason behind Argentina's hyperinflation," the Argentine foreign minister said.

In the DPA interview, Cavallo also said: "We are firmly working toward disciplined tax collection. We believe that this will rebalance the economy."

Cavallo said he is confident that after renegotiating the goals in the "stand-by" [preceding two words in English] IMF loan of September 1989, the IMF will grant a "waiver" [preceding word in English] for the disbursement of the $230-million second installment of the $1.4-billion loan granted to Argentina.

Argentine representatives have also begun negotiations with the Paris Club. Interest in these matters will continue after these negotiations, DPA states.

Menem Denies Requesting Minister's Resignation

PY0902151290 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0049 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Feb (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem tonight denied having requested the resignation of Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez. He asserted that the report "is part of a merciless rumormongering campaign" which seeks to "destabilize this government that was elected by the people."

He said that "groundless statements are made to try to influence the president's firm determination to go ahead with his government's plan."

Menem said this during a ceremony in which he signed a decree calling for an international bid to build a water aqueduct to Comodoro Rivadavia, Chubut; and Caleta Olivia, Santa Cruz. The ceremony took place in the Government House situation room.

The president said "we will not modify the economic policy conducted by this administration" since it is "the only possible solution to the prostrate, futureless, plain, and gray Argentina we inherited after many years of disagreement, which had become worse in the past few years."

Within this framework, Menem said "the groundless rumors being circulated are meant to destabilize this government elected by the people. Despite all the problems, we will not retreat without first complying with our six-year mandate."

Menem said "once the Constitution is amended, the fruits of our administration will be reaped within the planned timetable by a Peronist government which we hope will continue to steer the destiny of the Argentine Republic."

The president said with irony: "Today I learned that the president had requested the economy minister's resignation, seeking to replace him, and that an opposition deputy was planning to impeach the president for incompetence."

He said: "We will answer with facts and deeds all the rumors that are circulating." He added that he did not "want to discuss the subject again, which, even though it had not spread as much as it might have, has (?harmed) the dignity of the people and democracy."

Menem approved the "reduction of the former administration's term in office" as "an evident proof of its inability to overcome the crisis we inherited and which we are trying to overcome."

Regarding the water aqueduct, Menem said that "many kinds of governments have promised, but this is the only one to begin construction." He held that everything he promised during his election campaign "is becoming true."

"Facts, not promises and realities, not simple wishes, are at last ending the frustrations which have so harmed the country," Menem said.

Menem then requested those present at the ceremony, including Chubut Governor Nestor Perl and Santa Cruz Governor Jaime del Val, "not to join the game of the apostles of hatred and misunderstanding, because now more than ever Argentina belongs to its children."

Pereyra Installed as 4th Air Brigade Commander

PY1002161090 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1703 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Feb (TELAM)—It has been reported at the Condor Building in Buenos Aires today that Air Operations Commander Hector Gilobert has installed Commodore Arturo Pereyra as the commander of the 4th Air Brigade headquarters in Mendoza.

Last week, Gilobert appointed Commodore Oscar Aranda Duranona commander of the 6th Air Brigade,

Commodore Hector Cid commander of the 2nd Air Brigade, and Commodore Alberto Vianna commander of the 3rd Air Brigade.

Bolivia

Minister: State of Siege Objectives Completed

PY1002145690 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco said today that it is not necessary to extend the state of siege, which will expire on 14 February.

According to Minister Capobianco, the objectives of the state of siege have been satisfactorily accomplished.

[Begin Capobianco recording] The objectives of the state of siege decreed on 15 November 1989 have been fully accomplished. Order and tranquillity have been restored, and all the objectives have been achieved. It must be remembered that the decision to decree the state of siege was legitimate, constitutional, and appropriate. It was necessary to decree the state of siege to restore in the country the tranquillity that had been destroyed by small groups of people who had radical ideologies. I believe this objective has been fully achieved. We are now living peacefully and the state of siege does not have to be extended. [end recording]

Chile

Terrorists Attack Precinct; Kill 1, Wound 2

PY0902135490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Last night a group of terrorists using machine guns and LAW [Light Anti-tank Weapon] rockets attacked the 24th Investigative Police Precinct in La Bandera. Three policemen were wounded during the attack. One of them, Jaime Arturo Gonzalez, died in the last few hours of wounds to the head in the Institutional Hospital.

According to the investigative police chief who came to the 24th Police Precinct overnight, the attack was carried out by subversives who traveled in two different cars.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified police chief] We know there were two cars.

[Reporter] Who are those people being carried away?

[Police chief] They will be identified later because we are still investigating.

[Reporter] Is it true that an individual is wounded?

[Police chief] He was apparently on guard. We was wounded by shrapnel. [end recording]

The extremists clashed with two Carabineros, both members of the San Ramon Precinct, who were leaving the area in civilian clothes. San Ramon is located near the Investigative Police building. They came to check what was happening after hearing gunshots and were wounded by machine-gun fire.

The police launched a ground and air dragnet that so far has been unsuccessful in locating the subversives.

The group of extremists drove a white Opala car during the attack on the Investigative Police precinct at 9840 Lavandera Street. They wounded the guard who was identified as (Miguel Ascudillo Vega).

The extremists, protected by another group who opened fire on the San Ramon precinct, then drove northeast where they clashed with the two Carabineros in civilian clothes at 1759 Vicuna Mackenna Street.

According to a police source, Carabinero Leopoldo Aguilera Prado is recovering from his wounds.

More on Attack

PY1002154690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Soviet-made weapons, antitank rockets, M-16 rifles, and submachine guns were used by the terrorists who attacked two Carabineros precincts in La Bandera slum. One Carabinero was killed, another was wounded, and three investigative policemen were wounded in the attack.

The new police martyr is (Jaime Arturo Gonzalez Calquin) from the 13th Police Precinct in La Granja District. He was 29 years old and has left behind a widow and 4-year-old child.

The terrorists used two cars, an Opala taxi and a van. The police did not rule out the possibility that more terrorists had participated in the attack.

Lieutenant Colonnel Jorge Rodriguez, from the Carabineros public relations office, reported the following:

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] We believe about seven or eight terrorists used these two vehicles [words indistinct] as accustomed by them. They normally use another car as support; it is normally not seen during the attack. It is meant to safeguard those committing the attack.

[Reporter] Is there any evidence that [words indistinct]?

[Rodriguez] No, not so far.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the other car?

[Rodriguez] I know the Carabineros confiscated some cars. [end recording]

About eight terrorists allegedly participated in the attack. They are being sought in southern Santiago.

MIR Claims Responsibility

PY1002225790 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1812 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Santiago, 10 Feb (EFE)—A so-called "Arturo Villavela" Command of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) today claimed responsibility for the extremist attacks on two police precincts in Santiago on the night of 8 February that killed one police officer and wounded five others.

In telephone messages to two international news agencies, a MIR spokesman said that "none of the command members were wounded in the attack as reported by the press, which noted that bloodstains were found in one of the escape cars." The spokesman said that the bloodstain "came from a scratch suffered by one of the command members when the car, a cab, ran into another vehicle."

The police reported that at least eight extremists used two cars in carrying out the attacks on two police precincts in southern Santiago. They used RPG-7 antitank rockets, grenades, M-16 rifles, and a revolver.

Three Carabineros in civilian clothes who were walking near one of the police precincts chased the extremists and clashed with them. Carabinero Jose Gonzalez Calquin, a married 29-year-old with two children, was killed in the clash.

The MIR spokesman also reported that a European-made automobile was abandoned in southern Santiago. The car was presumably used by the extremists in the attacks. The police reported that the vehicle, which was stolen on 26 January by three armed men who threatened its owner, was found with one grenade inside.

The MIR spokesman also said that the Arturo Villavela Command was named to honor a high-ranking MIR leader who died in a clash with security agents in Santiago in 1983.

One week ago the political wing of the MIR, which is a movement that emerged in the sixties, announced it would not carry out armed actions because of the 11 March transfer of power when General Augusto Pinochet will hand over the government to President-elect Patricio Aylwin.

Before the telephone calls were made, Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange told the press that "no one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, which should be thoroughly investigated." A high-ranking official said that "no one suspected of being responsible for the attacks has been arrested."

Pinochet on End of 'Mission,' Attack on Precinct

PY1002160490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Report by Graciela Contreras from La Serena]

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet said here that this is the last city he will visit during the first part of his nationwide tour to take leave of the citizenry as chief of state. He also thanked the Chilean people for their hard work toward progress.

The president said he was pleased to observe optimism among the people in the northern region, as in the rest of the country. Pinochet said in Copiapo that those who try to tarnish the honor of the Armed Forces and forces of order are against Chile. He made these statements during a public ceremony at the Alhambra theatre in Copiapo, where he was honored for his government work over the past 16 years. After enumerating achievements in the Third Region, the president referred to his completed mission.

[Begin Pinochet recording] We have completed our mission because we have behaved in keeping with Armed Forces tradition. We maintained the honor we inherited from our historic heroes. Those who ignore the great work carried out by the national defense institutions are being irresponsible toward history.

Those who try to tarnish the honor of the Armed Forces and forces of order are against Chile and its essential institutions. This is not acceptable, ladies and gentlemen. [applause] [end recording]

Before meeting with the Copiapo citizenry, the president also referred to the violent attacks that took place in Santiago. He said these attacks will not hinder talks on the transfer of power. He added that he did not have full reports on the subversive attack.

[Begin recording] [Pinochet] I think it is normal, a situation in keeping with the dynamics of current politics. I do not foresee greater consequences to it. When I get back there possibly [passage indisinct].

[Reporter] Mr. President, there has been a terrorist attack in the capital. What do you know about it?

[Pinochet] I cannot tell you. I have been told over the phone, but it is confidential information that I cannot repeat. However, I do not think it is too serious.

[Reporter] Mr. President, that does not break away [passage indistinct].

[Pinochet] According to what I know so far, nothing has happened that could turn into anything more serious. Things are going along just the same, with the small problems that arise daily within the dynamics of politics, but as I just said, I do not think [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Mr. President, do you think this attack was committed by those who escaped from the Santiago prison?

[Pinochet] That is what I mean; I do not think it is very important since reactions of (?violence) have increased. It could have been them. According to the information I

received, it could be serious but not so much as to think this is the end of the world. [end recording]

Finally, President Pinochet said he still had no further reports on the terrorist attack in which another Carabinero was slain, and he regretted the dissolution of the CNI [National Intelligence Center] which was a specialized organization well acquainted with the terrorist cells.

The chief of state will end his tour of northern Chile in Serena. He will return to Santiago today.

Aylwin Nominates More Government Officials

PY1002161690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Enrique Correa, future minister secretary general of government, has reported on another list of future government officials nominated by Aylwin:

Andres Sanfuentes Bergara, one of the owners of the consulting company (Jamines), was nominated as State Bank president;

General Horacio Toro Iturraga, retired, was nominated as Investigative Police director;

Carlos Portales Cifuentes, as foreign policy director of the Foreign Ministry;

Eugenio Tironi Barros, as chief of the Government Social Communications Division;

Pablo Arellano, as budget director of the Finance Ministry;

Carlos Cruz, as chief of the economy minister's office; and

(Eugenio Yuniz) as director of the National Tourism Service.

The list includes 90 appointments of government officials who will assume their posts in March.

Reported Aylwin Cabinet Resignations Denied

PY0902155490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Interior Minister-designate Enrique Krauss has denied the existence of a supposed cabinet crisis in the designated government of President-elect Patricio Aylwin.

[Begin recording] [Krauss] I do not know anything about it. I have talked with Juan Agustin Figueroa [agriculture minister-designate and Radical Party leader] and he did not say anything critical about our work so I must conclude that the reports are merely rumors.

[Reporter] The media are saying that the Radical Party wants more responsibilities, more positions than they have been offered.

[Krauss] I think that is mere speculation because it is well known that from the time the 17 parties accepted our platform and issued their declaration on it they all agreed that the government should fulfill its duties without ties to sectorial interests; without quotas. They all agreed that President Aylwin should elect his secretaries considering only the personal merits of the individuals involved. I therefore think that the calculation on percentages or the like are absolutely out of order considering the importance of the task before us. [end recording]

Krauss added that all trusted secretaries have agreed to place their resignations at the disposal of President Aylwin from the time they were designated.

Radical Party leaders, however, confirmed that the party could withdraw from the coalition if their militants do not receive more public positions. This announcement was made by Radical Party national committee member Enrique Barra.

Barra confirmed that a special session of the national committee was convened to discuss the issue. Barra said that the Radicals are deeply concerned over their small representation in Aylwin's government. Barra said this representation is in no way proportional to their electoral force, as shown in the latest election.

Barra did not dismiss the possibility that they could refuse what Aylwin has offered them so far.

Enrique Silva Cimma, foreign minister-designate and president of the Radical Party, has said the newspaper report on an alleged crisis in his party is just a story; groundless speculation. The crisis reportedly revolved around Radical Party follower Juan Agustin Figueroa who reportedly had said he would not assume the post of agriculture minister next March.

The coalition spokesman bluntly denied to reporters the withdrawal of Figueroa's nomination.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Will Juan Agustin Figueroa be sworn in on 11 March?

[Silva Cimma] Of course, I do not know who is inventing this problem.

[Reporter] The source of the news was allegedly you, Mr. Silva Cimma.

[Silva Cimma] They are groundless speculations. [end recording]

Silva Cimma then climbed into his car with difficulty because he was surrounded by reporters. He said he had nothing else to add on the matter.

Interview With Defense Minister-Designate

PY0902204090 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 28 Jan 90 pp D-1, D-2

[Interview with Defense Minister-designate Patricio Rojas by Raquel Correa; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Correa] In the face of what the opposition has labeled "restrictive laws," do you feel that the transfer of power will be more apparent than real?

[Rojas] Yes, the normal activity the country accepted so well is unfortunately running into obstacles, particularly in the current legislative process. I believe there are good intentions on both sides but objections and proposals made by President-elect Aylwin and some of his ministers-designate regarding legislation are not being considered.

[Correa] Considering this reality, do you believe that Aylwin will have, technically speaking, the same presidential powers as Pinochet?

[Rojas] We still do not know all the laws that will be approved before 11 March. These laws could cause a serious imbalance within the power system that will be handed over. It would have been ideal if President Aylwin could have fully exercised the powers set forth in the current, purely presidentialist, constitution. This does not mean, however, that the appropriate corrections to the political system could not have been considered within the framework of the state of law and with the participation of Congress.

Aylwin supports a presidential system but with limitations to prevent excessive centralization of power. [passage omitted]

[Correa] Would you like Chile to be like Costa Rica, that is, without any Armed Forces?

[Rojas] Costa Rica is different. Their situation allows that peculiarity.

[Correa] If you had to make a decision, would you declare the National Security Doctrine "on hold until a new order is approved?"

[Rojas] Fortunately the National Security Doctrine is not written in any Armed Forces manual, therefore it does not have any internal value. I hope I do not have to rewrite it in accordance with the new democratic system.

[Correa] Are you referring to Brazilian National Security?

[Rojas] I refer to the Brazilian, U.S. and Israeli doctrines. This doctrine is taught in the military institutions but is not included in any textbook or manual.

[Correa] Aylwin's administration cannot prevent it from being taught...

[Rojas, interrupting] I believe that in a democracy, no doctrine that ideologically appears as an enemy of the so-called National Security Doctrine—in any form—will be accepted in any of the military training institutions.

[Correa] Because the institutions would not accept them?

[Rojas] Because it goes against the democratic spirit.

[Correa] Why was the rank of Captain General eliminated?

[Rojas] This situation should be explained by the person who created it. (Rojas thus answered referring to Pinochet, but without mentioning his name).

[Correa] Why are all the Defense Ministry secretaries-designate civilians? Out of distrust?

[Rojas] No. Just to facilitate communication with the civilian world. In important countries, such as the United States and Great Britain, the defense minister or secretary and the defense deputy minister or secretary are always highly qualified civilians.

President Aylwin used his authority to appoint these secretaries. He does not want to politicize the Armed Forces. This is why he chose professionally and academically highly-qualified people, people who are not active in politics, to occupy the positions.

[Correa] Will Aylwin be able to appoint his own aides-de-camp, or will the Armed Forces chiefs of staff appoint them?

[Rojas] As before, he will receive three names from which he will have to choose.

Although coincidentally he has some military friends—the directors of the four military hospitals were his classmates—Aylwin considers himself closer "to the academic and scientific worlds."

[Correa] Can you think of a world more different from the academic and scientific worlds than the military world?

[Rojas] This is not true. In the developed countries, the academic and scientific worlds take a very active part in military activities. Civilian intelligence increases military strategic power. Chile should learn from these countries.

[Correa] Are you not more concerned about intelligence spelled with a capital I....?

[Rojas, interrupting] No, I am not. We have witnessed how the current regime has solved this problem. Nevertheless, we have announced to the country that the National Intelligence Center (CNI) will be dismantled. We want to make sure that through the legal dismantling of the CNI the institution will really cease to exist and function.

[Correa] Do you have any doubts?

[Rojas] I feel rather uneasy about it...

[Correa] Would you like to have a new intelligence institution?

[Rojas] All democratic governments need information services. The new Chile which is about to begin is no exception. However, an organization functioning under the orientation of a state of right can never be compared to the repressive security services functioning in accordance with a war logistic against a civilian enemy.

[Correa] Would you like to see this institution work with civilian personnel only?

[Rojas] This is not an indispensable condition. Anyone, civilian or military, can contribute in this institution. [passage omitted]

[Correa] Do you think the Chilean Armed Forces have managed to avoid becoming politicized, as you yourself warned some years ago? It has been said that they find it difficult to forget the way to La Moneda once they have learned the way there...

[Rojas] I think that it has been hard to resist the temptation to stray away from the Armed Forces' strict doctrine of remaining apolitical. Everyone knows they were told from above that they would play roles not contemplated in their duties and even participate in politics, which is inadmissible within a democratic institutional system. I think this distortion will have to be amended. In returning the Armed Forces to their professional duties, a great effort will have to be exerted to establish a purely apolitical doctrine.

[Correa] Will the Armed Forces now have to choose between the "Schneider doctrine" and the "Carvajal doctrine"?

[Rojas] The Armed Forces have no alternative in this regard because the Constitution is quite clear. The law of the Armed Forces Charter clearly prohibits the Armed Forces from participating in any political party or movement that may have a political connotation. The Constitution is quite clear, even regarding the important subject of their role as guardians of the institutional system.

[Correa] How do you interpret that role of guardian of the institutional system, a role that did not exist previously and is now established by the Constitution?

[Rojas] This role is established by the Constitution and it will be fully respected by the new government. But it will be interpreted correctly. The correct interpretation of the role of the Armed Forces is given by the Constitution itself, which establishes the mechanisms and circumstances in which the Armed Forces may express their viewpoints on conflictive subjects regarding national security and the institutional system. There are three very precise and clear instances: As an institution the Armed Forces are members of the National Security Council. The constitutional reform was essential in this because it changed the phrase "state in a manner intended to affect action or judgment" [representar] in case of an impending risk to national institutions to "look into" [hacer presente]. The first phrase basically authorized the Armed Forces to exert tutelage over political activities. This has been eliminated and a balance achieved in the National Security Council by appointing four representatives from the military sector and four civilians.

[Correa] According to the Consitution, the Armed Forces can express their concern at the National Security Council not only by suggesting to "look into" a matter...

[Rojas] There are also exceptional measures allowing the establishment of areas of state of emergency, state of siege, or state of assembly, which fall under the jurisdiction of the respective military commanders. But it must be noted that in these cases the Constitution specifically authorizes the implementation of restrictions on human rights, such as free movement of individuals, press censorship, etc.,

[Correa] Then, if a state of emergency is declared, Chile will again be virtually governed by the Armed Forces...

[Rojas] States of exception will be declared in compliance with the Constitution by the president, and a state of siege will be enforced with the approval of Congress. It is up to the executive branch to decide whether a state of emergency is to be enforced. The Constitution also establishes that the Armed Forces will guarantee the cleanliness of elections.

[Correa] But the Armed Forces have a different view of their role on safeguarding national institutions...

[Rojas] As far as I know, there is no official document granting interpretations of the constitutional mandate differing from those I have mentioned. There have been speeches made by military figures with different views. But in my capacity as defense minister I will be unable to respond to speeches. I will have to implement the regulations established in the Constitution and the law.

[Correa] And the speeches will be left aside...?

[Rojas] Speeches are easily fogotten.

[Correa] Which means that threats of "shining swords" and other similar ones will be a thing of the past?

[Rojas] They must become healed wounds that should be forgotten.

[Correa] This has been a very personalistic military regime. The Army has virtually made a cult figure out of is commander in chief...

[Rojas] I believe that a change in regime also implies a psychological change. I saw this occur in the Armed Forces when I contributed to President Frei's government. I believe that, under a regime of force, the military

state of mind has followed the orientation and principles of their chain of command, as should always occur in a hierarchic institution. When democracy is reestablished in the country and the new officials are legitimately elected, the Armed Forces must be psychologically prepared to cooperate with the new institutional life.

[Correa] This is what should happen, but don't you think that to make this possible it will be necessary to "clean up" the Armed Forces?

[Rojas] This must be done through the Armed Forces' normal process of selection. Naturally, it will depend on the way in which the defense minister orients the institutional behavior and on holding frequent talks with the different military sectors... [passage omitted]

[Correa] Do you believe it is necessary to democratize the Armed Forces?

[Rojas] No, I believe this term is extremely negative. I reject the idea of democratizing the Armed Forces not only because I consider the term ambiguous but also because it is highly inappropriate. This term has been used worldwide, including in Chile, to express concepts that can break down discipline and the hierarchy; I therefore do not accept it. The reincorporation of the military institutions into the process of national democratic recovery, where their cooperation is needed, is appropriate. The Armed Forces must take part in national life with the other sectors of government by providing their opinion on Chile's new foreign policies, the policy to be implemented in the Antarctic, maritime policy, and border matters.

[Correa] Do you think General Pinochet's continuance as Army commander in chief will facilitate or complicate this reincorporation into the democratic recovery process?

[Rojas] I will quote Pinochet's own words as published in "Ego Sum": He will make the decision at the right moment and will do it with all responsibility.

[Correa] Excuse me, but this past 11 January when you were asked if you thought General Pinochet should give up his post as Army commander in chief, you said: "The country would function more peacefully, and there would be more detente."

[Rojas] I am reasserting that statement, but I prefer to say it the way I am saying it now. Horace used to say: "Adversity reveals a general's genius. Good luck hides it." That is all.

(He remains silent, completely quiet for some time. He then continues.)

I want to point out the need to establish new ties at the academic level and to intensify participation in several sectors, not only economic and social, but also in the sector of defense.

[Correa] Soon after being appointed defense minister by Aylwin you announced that your relations with General Pinochet would be "civilized." I believe that all relations between a civilian government and the military sector, and vice versa, must be civilized, but the problem I am talking about has nothing to do with civility. The important thing here is "who orders whom," as they say on the television comedy show.

[Rojas] The Constitution clearly establishes that the Armed Forces are subordinated—"subordinated" is the term used in the Constitution—to the president of the Republic, who is the Armed Forces supreme chief, and to the defense minister, who is the president's representative.

[Correa] In other words, you would give orders to Pinochet?

[Rojas] It is established by law. These relations should be based on the common efforts made for the benefit of the country. We cannot apply here the words of a U.S. president who said that, with a certain country, he would have the type of relations that country might want to establish with him. Dependence and subordination are also involved in this case. The Armed Forces depend on and are subordinated to the chief of state and to his representative, the defense minister.

[Passage omitted] [Correa] The Armed Forces organizational charter has two opposite regulations. You expressed your satisfaction at the explanation of a minister who is leaving in March, but it so happens that Article 55, Clause E will remain. It states that "the officers the President orders to retire or who are granted their retirement by PROPOSAL [capitalization as published] of their corresponding commander in chief" will retire.

[Rojas] We agree with National Renewal's constitutional interpretation by which this proposal can be used in formulating an opinion but not in restricting the president's power to order promotions or retirements.

[Correa] Do you think this article will prevent the next government from "removing" the chiefs it wishes to?

[Rojas] First, the next government does not intend to remove Armed Forces commanders out of revenge or for their nonprofessional behavior... We do demand respect, however, for the president's power to order retirements. This power has been used only occasionally in Chile's history. I would say it has been used once or twice every six years, for serious reasons known to the public. I am sure President Aylwin will exercise this power with the same prudence.

[Correa] Human rights is a "key" subject in relations between the future government and the Armed Forces. Do you favor suspending the amnesty law?

[Rojas] I think the recent modification of the antiterrorist law is positive because it permits release on bail. This will help considerably in clearing up the problem

because it will allow the release of a large number of political prisoners. [sentence as published]

[Correa] Will the people who murdered five guards and wounded five others in the attack near "El Melocoton" be released?

[Rojas] No, not at all. There has been a proposal to modify the military jurisdiction, which is too broad, and to try crimes committed by civilians in civil courts...

[Correa] What is your human rights doctrine?

[Rojas] Chile has suffered a painful experience that we must overcome with what President Aylwin described as a combination of truth, prudence, and justice... It has still not been decided how these principles will be combined. There must also be compensation for the victims or their relatives.

[Correa] Do you or do you not favor a suspension of the amnesty law?

[Rojas] There are different interpretations among the experts. I share the attitude of Justice Minister-designate Francisco Cumplido and I would rather not recommend the suspension of the amnesty law.

[Correa] Do you think this is a problem that will have to be solved by the courts? Will the government wash its hands of it, like Pontius Pilate?

[Rojas] I think the new government will be responsible for seeking the formulas of reconciliation, justice, and truth we all want.

[Correa] Don't you think that the left, which is the sector that has suffered the most, is more anxious for revenge and punishment? Don't you think the left wants a Nuremburg-like trial?

[Rojas] I think there are a few groups with that attitude, but I am sure that the most responsible political groups in this country—which are the same ones participating in the new government and Congress—will show their best goodwill toward seeking solutions. I do not envision any special court to try human rights cases. We cannot have a Nuremburg trial in Chile.

Colombia

Barco Will Request U.S. Aid for Peru, Bolivia

PA1102180190 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1630 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 11 Feb (DPA)—Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas said he will ask U.S. President George Bush—during the 15 February drug summit to be held in Cartagena—for greater assistance to Bolivia and Peru, the world's biggest producers of coca leaves.

During an informal talk with reporters, Barco said that at the summit he will ask President Bush to provide economic and military assistance to fight the "war" he himself declared on drug-trafficking mafias after various terrorist actions last August.

Although he did not specify the kind of aid or how it should be provided, Barco Vargas said the economic measures for which he will ask would concentrate on a greater opening of the U.S. market to exports from Andean countries affected by production and chemical processing of cocaine.

In addition to Presidents Bush and Barco, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora and Peruvian President Alan Garcia will also attend the summit. They are expected to present proposals on the substitution of other crops for coca leaves—the base for making cocaine—while bearing in mind the economic well-being and social development of peasants engaged in this activity.

The four presidents will meet for no longer than five hours and will sign a document in which they will define strategies to develop an overall struggle against drug trafficking.

According to unofficial reports, the points that will be included in the joint document include strengthening Andean economies by increasing exports, and the "total struggle" against international drug-trafficking gangs by reducing demand, consumption, and supply of hallucinogenic drugs.

Barco Vargas said industrialized nations should "especially help the fraternal countries of Bolivia and Peru, which have great needs."

One of the Colombian objectives at the antidrug summit will be to make the United States understand its coresponsibility for the serious cocaine-trafficking problem because of its almost 14.5 million drug addicts, and because of its sales of weapons and chemical components—which seem to have no official control—to mafias.

At least 5,000 men from Colombian security corps are already patrolling strategic sites in Cartagena to prevent any act of terrorism that could be perpetrated by the drug cartels during the summit.

Steps Taken To Protect President Bush Noted

PA1002033490 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0020 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Report by Pilar Calderon]

[Text] Paranoia is the disease in vogue in the United States. Since U.S. President Bush announced he was coming to Colombia, half of the United States has been having nightmares on the possible risks that its president may face in such a remote and hostile land. Anything represents a threat. So much so that newsmen assigned to cover the summit, victims of their colleagues's sardonic jokes, have thought of establishing their bases of operations somewhere from which they could see but not feel

the possible consequences of an attack on the U.S. president in the kingdom of drug traffickers and their henchmen.

For several days, every inch of Cartegena has been inspected by hordes of U.S. secret agents. This newscast has learned that at the most, all these sleuths have been able to find are suntanned tourists and a few disoriented foreigners. in spite of this, all types of attacks, even those with antiaircraft missiles, have been studied at the White House. Overcoming his fears and those of his countrymen, Bush will come to Colombia on a trip that will depart from who knows where and will arrive, as far as we know, at the Barranquilla Airport Military Base, flanked by an unspecified number of U.S. military planes, some of which will take off from an aircraft carrier anchored in the bay.

Here in Colombia, an untold number of security agents will be ready to protect him. They will constantly follow him during the five hours he is in Colombia on an, as yet, unannounced agenda. In Colombia, only reporters accredited to the White House will have access to Bush. Colombians will have to resign themselves to watching him on the television installed at the Convention Center, thanks to Inravision services. The modern teleconference system will be used for the news conference. There are many accredited newsmen but only eight will be chosen. To prevent any mistakes, Inravision has planned a rehearsed broadcast, but we do not know if it includes an attack.

Once all the risks have been analyzed, many wonder if Bush and his security agents have considered what is known in Colombian as happenstance, namely, the possibility that he will not fall prey to sophisticated equipment but to hemorrhagic dengue or the recent yellow fever epidemic, or contract amebiasis from the Cartagena water, or be poisoned by the bay's mercury pollution. Although Barco does not often leave the Presidency, he has become inured to these woes. [sentence as heard].

TV Reports on Security

PA1102141090 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0105 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] The presidential antidrug summit will begin soon in Cartagena, and the security and journalistic preparations have been truly gigantic. Starting on 14 February, Presidents Alan Garcia, Jaime Paz, George Bush, and Virgilio Barco will meet in this heroic city.

One thousand reporters and tons of equipment, cameras, microphones, telephones, fax machines, direct shortwave communications, and even a portable office were brought from Bogota to Cartagena, and these are only some of the things that have been shipped here because of President Bush's visit to our country. Big U.S. television networks, such as CNN, will bring more than 40 persons, including technicians, producers, editors, and cameramen. They will all be ready to broadcast directly to several countries. ABC News will bring more than 20 persons and sophisticated technical equipment. Among others, Japanese, Germans, Chinese, Spaniards, Mexicans, and Peruvians will besiege Cartagena next week.

[Begin unidentified Colombian official recording] We will have to watch everything, from a truck bringing equipment to the airport that is loaded on a special plane, including the computers and machines brought by journalists from the United States and other countries. We must ensure that customs facilitates their entry so problems do not arise. [end recording]

Of the more than 1,000 journalists, only 100 will be the lucky ones to see Bush and the presidents of Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia at close range. The presidents will be staying at the guest house. The foreign journalists have taken advantage of the summit to request interviews with President Barco. More than 20 such applications are on President Barco's desk.

The task of preparing the presidential summit has been enormous. Officials in charge of preparations have traveled to Cartagena four times within the last week. The presidents' menu has already been arranged by First Lady Carolina de Barco.

[Begin unidentified Colombian official recording] [Words indistinct] to arrange everything having to do with the presidents and the luncheon menu that will be served that day. [end recording]

These preparations for the drug summit began a month ago. President George Bush will be in Colombia for only six hours.

The Colombian military forces that will be in charge of security during the summit are in Cartagena, and all units are ready as of now. A large group of CIA agents has been working with them for several days now. The CIA is the only gringo security organization that will be present during the summit. Contrary to what had been speculated, the CIA agents go by unnoticed. They speak Spanish without an accent and many of them look very Latin American. There are very few blonds among them.

During their operations, the special urban antiterrorist forces will wear this gringo uniform that has never before been seen in Colombia.

'Macho Bush' Visit Criticized

PA1102202090 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Feb 90 p 4A

[Article by Enrique Santos Calderon: "Macho Bush Coming to War"]

[Text] Over 5,000 local and gringo security agents are already all over the place in Cartagena and the surrounding area. U.S. "spy" planes overfly the entire

national territory, two aircraft carriers and several warships are sailing toward the international waters of the Carribbean, and reporters from the U.S. media are landing here every day...

These are only a few of the preparations under way for the greatest political publicity show ever seen in Colombia in recent times: The lightning visit of President Bush to Cartagena, the classic "media event"—the juiciest one ever imagined—of which U.S. media and presidents are so fond. It promises to be an event with all the right ingredients: suspense, folklore, and exoticism. In their endeavor to surround the Cartagena summit with the necessary touch of news drama, the U.S. television networks began spinning out all sorts of sensational stories: that the Medellin Cartel had purchased SAM-7 missiles to shoot down Bush's plane; that the Colombian mafia paid $30 million to Arab terrorists to eliminate the U.S. President...

According to NEWSWEEK, the president will move about in Cartagena in a helicopter with antimissile systems; the meeting site is a state secret; and the White House has warned reporters it cannot guarantee their safety. The image of our violent "Locombia" [wordplay on the Spanish word "loco" meaning crazy] must be so bad that two big U.S. networks cannot find volunteers to cover the heroic trip.

The manner in which Bush's visit was conceived and the preparations and rumors that have preceded it are an eloquent x-ray of U.S. political psychology and its mutual dependence on the media. It is the show culture. The President's trips are mapped out according to the impact it will have on the mass media. The publicity effect of all trips, its political profit, the precise image that each case has on the head of state, and the impact this all has on the public—i.e. the voters—are considered keys in handling the domestic and foreign policy of the White House.

The visit to Cartagena, Colombia—the country of the coca cartels, the headquarters of the new "empire of evil"—is a unique opportunity for projecting the image of a bold and macho Bush, something he already had an opportunity to show off during the Malta summit when he confronted the angry sea and took a boat to meet with his Soviet counterpart.

However, when he met on the high seas with Gorbachev, Bush appeared to be a thoughtful world statesman, aware of the political changes in the communist block. Now, his image for the Cartagena meeting is that of an adventurous president who is assuming all the risks and dangers as long as he can continue his war on drugs. It is the image of a supreme commander who is visiting the battlefront, or the cowboy sheriff—to evoke his predecessor—who is going to the savage West—in this case, it is the violent South—to confront the cocaine cowboys. Naturally, the great American public loves all of this, even though most of the people consulted in polls asked the President to give up his suicidal heroism and stay home.

But ever since the Medellin Cartel decided to portray itself as a charitable institution, Bush's trip has lost much of its drama. Now that the "Extraditables" are attempting to portray themselves as pacifists and humanitarians, they will not try anything crazy at Cartagena. In addition, they have already announced that they have nothing against the Cartagena summit. The way things are, a group such as the ELN [Army of National Liberation] would represent a greater danger.

During the scant five hours that Bush will be in Cartagena, there will not be much time for anthing, not even a news conference (how about a question on the mayor of Washington D.C.?). The purpose of the trip is strictly symbolic, as the White House itself has admitted. It is a gesture of solidarity with the Colombian Government in its war against narcotics trafficking.

We must understand it and appreciate it as such, even though the bloody and costly war we are waging here needs more much than just symbolic support. This country needs more financial assistance and development alternatives, and less bellicose public posturing. This is a war that will be won first in the economic field, and later in the military field.

At least for Cartagena—whose tourist image has been greatly marred by the bombs of narcoterrorism—the summit might entail some positive results, as long as the thousands of gringo journalists realize they are not in a cave of bloodthirsty drug traffickers but in the most beautiful city of the Caribbean.

Council Created To Oversee Rebel Reintegration

PA1102030390 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] The Colombian Government created, through Decree No. 314, the National Council on Normalization [Consejo Nacional De Normalizacion]. This entity will be in charge of coordinating actions leading to disbanding and reintegrating into civilian life the armed rebel groups operating in the country. The measure establishes that this council will operate during the period required by the reintegration process, which cannot exceed three years. The activities of this entity will be coordinated by the Advisory Board for Reconciliation, Normalization, and Rehabilitation. The council will primarily be in charge of overseeing activities corresponding to the phases leading up to the surrender of weapons and reintegration into civilian life of members of the armed rebel groups.

Likewise, it will be in charge of proposing and overseeing the distribution of resources earmarked for the peace fund mentioned in the political pact for peace and democracy. It will also participate in the work to follow up and assess programs implemented to disband the

rebel groups and reintegrate them into civilian life. The national government will propose the creation of regional councils for normalization. According to the decree, the creation of the first regional councils are under consideration for Santander, Cauca, Valle, and Caqueta Departments, as well as for the city of Medellin.

Comprising the National Council on Normalization will be the head of the Administrative Department of the Presidency, a government minister delegate, a National Defense Ministry delegate, one DAS [Administrative Department of Security] delegate, a national planning chief delegate, a general director of criminal investigation delegate, and two delegates from each of the rebel groups accepting the national government's peace plan.

Editorial Urges Change in Foreign Policy

PA1002012890 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Jan 90 p 4-A

[Editorial: "Foreign Policy"]

[Text] During the 1990's, our foreign policy will perhaps be more closely linked to U.S. domestic policy than it was during the past decade. Colombia must prepare to face up to dangers with an overall global policy based on its major national interests and not on a narrow, short-term outlook. Regardless of certain outstanding personal successes by President Virgilio Barco, who now enjoys well-deserved international prestige, our policy has some serious pitfalls that are well worth analyzing objectively.

A consistent foreign policy entails two things: a consensual definition of its priorities and an adequate foreign service. Our country needs a bipartisan policy, the need for which is felt each time a crisis arises, as was the case with Panama. It cannot be said that the Liberal Party is in agreement with certain attitudes and decisions of the Foreign Ministry on major issues.

If, by all indications, the Advisory Committee on Foreign Relations [Comision Asesora de Relaciones Exteriores]—where the consensus was traditionally formed—is not being convened to prevent leaks or because its convocation places the government in political difficulties, the serious thing to do would be to find solutions. Why not establish a system of individual consultations with the former presidents rather than convene them as a group?

Two advisory bodies could be formed: one political, to be represented in the respective committees in the two chambers, and the other, with real international experts to evaluate situations and provide advice on them so errors and contradictions may be avoided.

If the country wants to adequately use international forums, starting with the UN, it cannot limit itself to appointing outstanding dignataries who will supposedly not subordinate their great interests to transitory pressures of groups such as the Nonaligned Movement or the Group of Eight. Colombia's actions in international forums should be in line with our real and supreme interests.

Votes in favor of Libya in the United Nations Security Council, when it is a known fact that this country practices terrorism, or for Cuba in the Human Rights Commission, when it is known that it violates elementary human rights, must not be repeated. The so-called Group of Eight—which is an expanded version of the "Contadora Group"—needs to rectify the chain of ambiguities and indulgences regarding Noriega. Its position has led to the regional crisis within the OAS, which today is being questioned.

The most well-known international experts agree that during the 1990's the North-South conflict will increase as the East-West struggle dissipates. In the Nonaligned Movement, Colombia and the mainly democratic governments must make this organization a true bridge for dialogue with industrial powers and not lend itself to being used as a factor for confrontation by the organized minority, led by Fidel Castro and his Sandinist allies.

It would be a horrible historical paradox for our governments, while totalitarian communism is crumbling in Europe, to prop up the two tyrannies in the Caribbean by supporting them at the UN or OAS, using the excuse that this is a "defensive" position. Inevitably, changes must be made in the Group of Eight.

It makes no sense that, at the same time we are happily celebrating the agreements between the United States and the Soviet Union and the end of the "cold war," we insist on maintaining irrational anti-American attitudes. Good relations with the world's and the region's leading power are necessary for the concept of dignity, mutual respect, and cooperation for our development.

We must, as a first priority, try to achieve a pragmatic integration with our neighbors, particularly with Venezuela. Our integration should target feasible agreements that are mutually beneficial. We should not make the same mistakes that made us lose the first two years of this four-year period.

The reentry of Chile into the Andean Group could serve to inject a dose of realism into the organization, attracting investments and technology at a time when the doors to the former European communist countries are opening ambitiously. To position our country advantageously in the 1990's and to respond to the risks and dangers we have noted here, we obviously need a modern, alert Chancellory with an efficient foreign service and professional diplomacy, unlike the diplomacy that we have been practicing up to now, since it is only a semblance of a diplomatic corps.

We have sketched here several of the main challenges of our foreign policy.

Split in Liberal's Galanist Faction Reported

PA1002031590 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] For the first time since it was created, the Liberal Party Galanist faction in Bogota split, and several of its main leaders left the party.

Alberto Villamizar, one of the party members, unexpectedly asked that his name be removed from the single official list of Galanista candidates for the Senate and reported that he will instead head the list presented by Alfonso Lopez Caballero. Other Galanists, candidates for the Bogota municipal council, also decided to run for other parties in what has been regarded as the beginning of the end of this movement founded by Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento, late senator and presidential hopeful.

The official list of Galanist candidates for the Senate will be headed by Mario Galan Gomez, the father of the assassinated leader.

Here is Villamizar, whose name is no longer on the Galanist movement's list of candidates.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Ambassador, some say that Dr. Villamizar, who is the brother of Senator Galan's brother-in-law, is the first name that should have been included on the list. Why are you off the list of your own movement?

[Villamizar] Look, it should not be said I should be on the list because I am the brother of Galan's brother-in-law. I am one of the founders of New Liberalism and the creator of the territorial organization that New Liberalism established in Bogota. The movement became the foremost electoral team in this city.

An electoral, rather than an ideological, break has occurred. In my view, the process to draft the list—I won the right to be included on it, according to our electoral system—was not recognized. Important leaders of New Liberalism—in fact nearly half the territorial organization—and I agreed to form an alliance with Lopez Caballero. We formed this alliance because, in our view, he represents in Bogota the same views we held in New Liberalism: a renovation of the country's political customs; modernization of the Liberal Party. Among other things, Lopez has been perhaps the only political leader in Bogota who has not tried to profit from Galan's prestige through political billboards or radio spots. Lopez supports Dr. Gaviria, who is the champion of Dr. Galan's political views. For this reason, I and my fellow New Liberalism members who joined me in this coalition feel comfortable and satisfied because our names have been included on the list we drafted with Lopez.

[Reporter] Dr. Villamizar, judging by what you are saying, everything seems to indicate there is strong opposition to Dr. (?Blackburn) and that you people, who defended the purity of the elections and morality in politics, are falling into the same practices of dispensing sinecures, politicking, and scheming as the traditional movements and parties.

[Villamizar] I expect the Galanist list headed by Mario Galan to succeed in the elections. As I said before, there has been no ideological break, but a political and electoral disagreement. Anyway, this break will not affect the final results of Dr. Gaviria's election campaign. I think that two great lists backing Gaviria were simply defined, namely, the one headed by Mario Galan and the coalition we formed with Lopez. There is no other disagreement nor do I think members of either group are truly hurt.

[Reporter] In the eyes of the public, Galan's followers, the older members of the New Liberalism, and today's Galanists, how can these internal breaks caused by positions on electoral lists be explained?

[Villamizar] I do not think the disagreement stems from positions. The decision was a good one. Some of my friends are still on Galan's list. They will surely be reelected to public office. I just think the procedure applied in preparation of the lists was not respected. This is why we decided to form this coalition. I would like the public to understand, as New Liberalism's electoral apparatus has understood, that this is what happened. It is a pity we have been unable to obtain a copy of New Liberalism's single list. I think that with a good organization and campaign, which will be carried out by the men on the two lists, there should be no problem. In addition, may I repeat, I think Lopez is highly prestigious in Bogota. His image conforms perfectly with the political views we have advocated. I hope the two coalitions fare well in the elections. [end recording]

President's Cousin Kidnapped by Armed Men

PA1002025390 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0157 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 9 Feb (DPA)—Eduardo Camacho Barco, former governor of Santander Department and cousin of President Virgilio Barco, was kidnapped tonight (local) by a group of armed men, according to radio reports released in Bogota.

According to RCN [Radio Cadena Nacional] radio station, Camacho Barco was kidnapped in a rural area near the town of San Vicente de Chucuri, 35 km northeast of this capital.

Camacho Barco, member of the ruling Liberal Party, had submitted his resignation as governor of Santander Department a few weeks ago and was currently engaged in political activities.

The kidnapping of President Barco's cousin occurred a few hours after ELN [National Liberation Army] guerrillas had kidnapped the senator of the opposition Social

Conservative Party, Jorge Sedano Gonzalez, and his secretary, Jorge Meza Correa, in Bucaramanga, Santander's capital.

The kidnappers reportedly wanted to talk to the parliamentarian about the upcoming elections in Colombia. There will be congressional elections on 11 March and presidential elections on 27 May.

Authorities are trying to determine if Camacho Barco is being held by rebels.

UP Leader, 2 Others Killed by Unidentified Men

PA1102195290 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1651 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 11 Feb (DPA)—It was reported today that Benito Suarez Garcia, leader of the Patriotic Union (UP), was assassinated today by several unidentified individuals in a rural area of Yondo, in northwestern Colombia.

The official reports indicate that Suarez Garcia, a UP councilman in Yondo, was killed along with two peasants accompanying him at a ranch.

About 1,000 members of the UP, a leftist coalition in which the Communist Party is the largest sector, have been killed since its establishment in 1985. Most of the killings have been attributed to extreme right-wing paramilitary groups financed by drug mafias.

ELN Confirms Kidnapping Parliamentarian Sedano

PA1102023390 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0143 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Report by Honesto Gomez Cavalistri]

[Text] It was confirmed today that Jorge Sedano, a North Santander Department conservative parliamentarian, has been kidnapped by the ELN [National Liberation Army]. It has also been reported that the senator is in good health and that the subversive group kidnapped him to discuss regional electoral problems. Sedano was going to Bogota to meet with Former President Misael Pastrana, when five subversives intercepted his taxi close to the Palo Negro Airport in Bucaramanga. The subversives forced him to get out of the cab and took him with them. In addition to Sen. Jorge Sedano, the ELN extremists kidnapped his secretary, Jorge Mesa Correa, who was accompanying him to the airport. The guerrilla later sent a cassette tape saying the senator was well and that the crime had political purposes.

[Begin Vicente Villamizar (not further identified) recording] The Camilist Union of the National Liberation Army claims responsibility for this crime and the reason they kidnapped Sen. Jorge Sedano Gonzalez and Dr. Jorge Enrique Mesa Correa was to talk about the electoral process. We hope that once they do this, they will be returned safe and sound so we can continue our electoral campaign normally. [end recording]

All of Santander's political sectors have called on the ELN to release Sen. Sedano Gonzalez safe and sound.

Kills 6 in Army Patrol

PA1102032290 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Six soldiers were killed and one civilian and four soldiers wounded as a result of the attack perpetrated early this morning by the Captain Parmenio Column of the Army of National Liberation [ELN] in Rancho Grande Corregimiento, El Carmen Jurisdiction, Santander Department.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] Four armed men entered and asked me to hand over all the documents of the national [words indistinct] and I did. [end recording]

The (Luciano Deluyer) Battalion soldiers were on patrol in the area when a dynamite charge exploded, killing the soldiers. The four wounded soldiers were immediately transferred to Bogota and Bucaramanga.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] Those who registered from 11 January to date must register again because the documents were lost. They may do so before 11 February. [end recording]

Operations continue in the zone to locate the guerrilla column that ambushed the Army patrol.

Training Camp Dismantled

PA1102195490 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1214 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Valledupar—An ELN [Army of National Liberation] Camilist Union training camp was dismantled by troops from the No. 2 La Popa Artillery Battalion in the Perija Mountain Range. A military spokesman said the training camp was located on the road leading from Caracolicito to the (Hueco Arriba) region in San Jose de Oriente, La Paz Municipality, northern Cesar Department.

Inside the camp were approximatley 130 to 150 men who fled when they became aware of the presence of the military troops. The soldiers found two grenades, uniforms for the exclusive use of the police and the national Army, hammocks, war materiel, and ELN documents. The rebels had tried to divert the attention of the soldiers by harassing the scout patrols.

7 Guerrillas, 5 Soldiers Killed in Clashes

PA1002180490

[Editorial Report] The 30 January issue of the Bogota newspaper EL TIEMPO in Spanish, on pages 1 and 8A, carries a 500-word report on clashes between soldiers and guerrillas which states that the National Guerrilla

Coordinating Board stormed Aguachica, Cesar Department, on 29 January, while rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia attacked an Army patrol in Meta Department on 28 January. "In this department, the 7th Brigade is still chasing a group that killed five military men and wounded seven more. In this action, seven guerrillas were killed." The wounded soldiers, whose names are included in the newspaper report, were taken to hospitals in Granada, Meta Department, Villavicencio, and the Central Military Hospital in Bogota. The report also says that in Cimitarra, Santander Department, authorities detained a Twin Otter 20-passenger plane that had arrived from Bucaramanga. In the aircraft the police found 80 boxes containing military uniforms, boots, and tents.

Paraguay

PDC Leader Comments on Upcoming Quayle Visit

PY1002174890 Asuncion Red Nacional de Television in Spanish 1500 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Interview with Luis Alfonso Resck, leader of the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Luis Alfonso Resck, leader of the PDC, was invited to attend the Second Forum on Democracy at the (Rosane) Convention Center in Managua, Nicaragua, on 19 and 20 February. Resck will also be an international observer at the Nicaraguan elections. [passage omitted]

The PDC leader also referred to U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle's upcoming visit to Paraguay.

[Resck, in progress] ...so that the United States, through its vice president, will understand our reality. We hope that the U.S. fraternal spirit of solidarity will prevail over its political interests innLatin America. We want to be good friends with the United States, which we think like other countries, has open people, which is not the case of its government or system.

Take the example of Panama. As you know, I was the first one to denounce the dishonest and cruel dictatorship of General Noriega. However, I have denounced just as strongly the U.S. invasion of Panama because it violated a principle. We sincerely want to strengthen ties at all levels and learn from U.S. experiences as an industrialized country that is far more developed than ours from the economic and social points of view. However, we want this to occur within a framework of equality and respect.

[Reporter] Given the latest events in Panama and other countries, do you not think that the U.S. vice president's visit is meant to restore Latin American confidence in the United States?

[Resck] One cannot restore someone else's confidence through basic rhetoric, speeches, or messages, but only on facts. I believe in others as long as they demonstrate their respect for me. Recently, as progress was being made in continental relations, the United States then demonstrated an overbearing attitude.

Human Rights Group Comments on Inspection Visit

PY1002184890 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 10 Feb 90 p 9

[Text] During a news conference yesterday, members of the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Committee [CIDH] discussed different aspects of the activities they engaged in during their visit to Paraguay. Commenting on the conclusion of their visit, the CIDH members noted that Paraguay's main obstacle in this transition period is the prolonged authoritarian regime that preceded the current government.

The CIDH members believe that Paraguay has no tradition of upholding democratic or human rights principles. Despite this fact, they praised the efforts being made by the government and other institutions to overcome the nefarious legacy of the Stroessner regime.

The CIDH members also stressed the need for an independent judicial branch, saying that this is an essential element in safeguarding human rights. CIDH Executive Secretary Edmundo Vargas Carreno said: "Paraguay is a country that has not had an efficient judicial branch; we support all efforts being made toward this goal."

Vargas Carreno and the other CIDH members—Gilda Russomano, Osvaldo Kreimer, and Oscar Lujan Fappiano—agreed during the news conference that the transition process in Paraguay, like all transition processes, is advancing slowly and that the greatest problems are of a social nature. They expressed their satisfaction with the reports supplied by the National Coordinating Council on Rural Development (Concoder) on the resettlements made as of August 1989.

They added that they are aware that a state of rights is in force in Paraguay, that the authorities are complying with the law, and that the current administration is also concerned about social justice.

They noted that the government has supplied reports on the violent expulsion of peasants by joint military and police forces and that it promised that a development policy will be implemented to achieve the full enforcement of social rights, which also encompasses the rural issue.

During their last day of activity, the CIDH commission also reported that they had asked the Parguayan Government to recognize the Inter-American Human Rights Court so that human rights could be better safeguarded and guaranteed.

Vargas Carreno explained that the CIDH is a political-diplomatic organization and that the Inter-American Human Rights Court grants legal support to the signatory countries of the San Jose pact.

He added: "We recommended the recognition of the juridical competence of the Inter-American Human Rights Court so that people can resort to the court if the Paraguayan Government violates any regulation of the human rights convention."

Regarding the prohibition of torture, he termed it a domestic problem that each country must resolve. He added that the CIDH believes that some serious crimes may be considered crimes against humanity and will therefore always be subject to investigation.

Issues Communique

PY1002193690 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 10 Feb 90 p 9

[Text] Members of the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Committee (CIDH) have stated in a news communique that the CIDH is aware of the efforts being made by government authorities and national sectors to overcome obstacles and difficulties impeding the full enforcement of human rights and to safeguard respect for individual and political rights in democratic institutions.

The communique states that the CIDH commission cannot make an evaluation of the current situation in Paraguay under the Rodriguez administration because such a report will have to be discussed first by the CIDH during a meeting that will be held in Washington in May.

The CIDH reported that their meetings with the president; the foreign, interior, and the justice and labor ministers; legislators; members of the Supreme Court; members of the National Coordinating Council on Rural Development; Indian organizations and leaders; religious authorities; womens organizations; media representatives; and labor unions have enabled them to gather additional information on the human rights situation in Paraguay as of 3 February 1989.

Peru

U.S. Citizen 'Tortured,' Shot to Death in Cuzco

PA0902175290 Paris AFP in Spanish 1628 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Cuzco, 9 Feb (AFP)—The National Police confirmed today that Charles John Williams, a North American tourist, has been found dead on one of the streets of Cuzco, shot in the forehead and with obvious signs of having been tortured. Cuzco is 1,150 km southeast of Lima.

Williams, 41, from Pennsylvania, had been visiting the imperial city for several days.

Police said that Williams was found in the Mallomarca neighborhood with a bullet wound on his forehead and several injuries all over his body. He had not been robbed, because his knapsack and wristwatch were found next to his body.

Investigators will try to determine the circumstances of the murder, an officer said.

Bomb Defused Near Home of Argentine Ambassador

PY0902195690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1538 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Lima, 9 Feb (TELAM-DPA)—The Peruvian police bomb squad has defused a bomb that was placed against the iron fence surrounding the Argentine ambassador's residence in Lima. The police reported today that the bomb was apparently planted by individuals who had infiltrated a march sponsored by the "United Left" and that these individuals could be terrorists belonging to the so-called "Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement" [MRTA].

While the bomb was being defused, other members of the bomb squad checked the area around the embassy and vehicles parked nearby. The bomb consisted of a detonator, an igniton device, and a safety fuse.

The police took down an MRTA flag in the area. Terrorist propaganda and several "LA VOZ REBELDE" pamphlets were also found in the gardens outside the residence.

Uruguay

Lacalle on Recognition of Endara Regime

PY1002115290 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 4 Feb 90 p 10

[Text] The future government will not recognize the new Panamanian authorities as long as the U.S. troops do not withdraw from Panama, President-elect Luis Alberto Lacalle stated during an interview with the weekly BRECHA.

When asked by BRECHA whether he intended to discuss this subject during his 5 February meeting with George Bush, Lacalle said he did not, but added that it was quite likely that the U.S. President would "bring up the subject of Panama."

Lacalle disclosed that the problem of the U.S. invasion of Panamanian territory was discussed during his recent meetings with Argentine President Carlos Menem and Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez, and that the member countries of the River Plate Basin share a common and firm position on the issue.

When asked if his government, once he has taken over, will demand the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. troops, Lacalle answered: "We have certain principles that the National Party has upheld throughout its history. We will try to remain as loyal as possible to those principles, but when one assumes power one has to adjust one's way of thinking to one's role as leader. This is the case here and in any part of the world.

"Specifically referring to your question, we believe that we cannot even think of recognizing Mr. Guillermo Endara's government while U.S. troops remain on Panamanian territory. This is a common and very firm position of the River Plate Basin member countries with whose presidents I was able to converse a few days ago."

Court Certifies Presidential, Other Victories

PY1002150890 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 6 Feb 90 p 7

[Summary] The Electoral Court yesterday proclaimed Luis Alberto Lacalle the president of the Republic with 444,839 votes.

The court also announced the name of the senators who were elected in the 26 November elections. They included National Party candidates Dardo Ortiz, Lui A. Lacalle Herrera [name as published], Walter Santoro, Juan C. Raffo, Jorge Silveira Azavala, Ignacio de Posadas, Gonzalo Aguirre Ramirez, Sergio Abreu, Carlos Julio Pereyra, Wilson Elso Goni, Rodolfo Nin Novoa, and Alberto Zumaran; and Colorado Party candidates Enrique Tarigo, Federico Bouza, Carlos W. Cigliuti, Alberto Brause Berreta, Walter Belvisi, Jorge Pacheco Areco, Pablo Millor Coccaro, Raumar Jude, Danilo Astori, Reinaldo Gargano, German Araujo, Leopoldo Bruera, Hugo Batalla, and Carlos Cassina.